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CRITICAL NOTES  
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(SIR WALTER SCOTT)  
**THE TALISMAN**



By  
Prof. N. N. Surolia, M. A.,





# CRITICAL NOTES

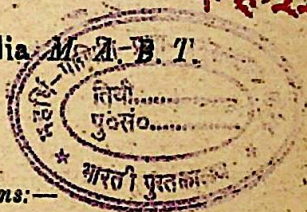
ON

## THE TALISMAN

( Sir Walter Scott )

by

Prof. N. N. Surolia *M.A., B.T.*



*It Contains:—*

A Brief synopsis of the whole novel, Introduction of each chapter, Summaries chapter wise and critical appreciation, who is who in the novel, defects of the novel and a critical appreciation of the novel, important questions with their full answers etc,

It is the only book of its own kind.

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CRITICAL NOTES  
ON  
**TALISMAN**

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE WHOLE NOVEL.

(1) Richard I of England, in alliance with Philip of France, Leopold, Duke of Austria and other crusading princes, leads the Third Crusade against Saladin, the Sultan of Syria and Egypt for the occupation of the holy city of Jerusalem.

(2) During the period of truce, which is signed between the two monarchs for carrying on negotiations of peace, they entertain feelings of love and respect for each other. The two hostile armies, like men, mingle freely & enjoy friendly games, tournaments and such other amusements.

(3) Richard falls seriously ill. Queen Berengaria, Edith the royal kinswoman of Richard and their attendants go on pilgrimage to the Convent of Engaddi for receiving from the deity her holy blessings for Richard's speedy recovery. Edith, here, meets her lover Kenneth of Scotland, heir apparent of the Scottish king William. In token of her love, she thrice drops rose buds on the foot of the kneeling knight.

(4) Having heard about Richard's serious sickness, Saladin sends his personal physician, El Hakim who cures him of his fatal disease by using the wonderful medicine Talisman.

(5) The Marquis of Montserrat and the Grand Master of Templars conspire to sow the seeds of dissensions among the princes. Philip of France is Richard's rival in European politics and the duke of Austria nursed a grudge against him for his superior position among the princes. Conrad of Montserrat instigates him and, being envious of Richard, the Duke fixes the Austrian banner beside the standard of England. This leads to a serious discord between the two monarchs.

(6) Kenneth of Scotland is appointed to guard the banner



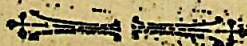
of England. In the night he leaves his post to meet Edith; meanwhile, an unknown person steals away the flag. Richard condemns Kenneth to death for his grave fault but his life is saved by El Hakim's intervention. Kenneth goes away as the physician's slave.

(7) Saladin falls in love with Edith on account of her matchless beauty. Kenneth's master persuades him to go to Richard's court as the Sultan's messenger and deliver his letter of love suit to Edith. Kenneth goes to Richard's camp as a Nubian slave. With his help Conrade is discovered to be the traitor who had stolen the flag of England. Richard is pleased with the slave's commendable services. He allows him to deliver Saladin's letter to Edith who rejects the proposal of marriage by tearing the letter to pieces.

(8) The Council resolves that Richard's charges of treason against Conrade should be decided by means of a combat. Conrade is mortally wounded in the battle. His life is spread as he promises confessions and acknowledges his crime. The Grand master murders Conrade for fear of being detected, as his accomplice in their series of foul deeds against Richard, but he is caught red-handed by Nectabanus.

(9) Richard, king of England, Berengaria the queen, Edith the king's royal kinswoman and Kenneth are invited by Saladin at a banquet. Saladin murders the grand Master in the presence of his royal guests and explains his reasons for committing the act.

(10) Philip of France and Leopold of Austria take leave of Richard to return to their respective countries. Richard is thus deserted by the top ranking rulers. He is left all alone. He also receives disquieting news of discord among the chiefs of England. There are no prospects of success in the war. Edith is espoused to Kenneth and Richard reluctantly returns home.





## A BRIEF STORY OF THE WHOLE NOVEL

Richard I of England, at the head of a large army, led the Third Crusade against Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt, for the recovery of Jerusalem. Philip of France, Leopold of Austria and other princes also joined the holy cause.

A truce was signed between Richard and Saladin to explore the possibilities of ending the war by permanent peaceful settlement between the hostile armies. During this period, the relations between Richard and Saladin were very cordial and both honoured and respected each other. The contending armies similarly enjoyed friendly games, tournaments and amusements.

Richard fell seriously ill. Berengaria, wife of Richard, Edith, his royal kinswoman, and their maid servants went on pilgrimage to the Convent of Engaddi for obtaining from the diety her blessings for Richard's speedy recovery.

The Scottish knight Kenneth came to meet Theodorick, the hermit of the Convent of Engaddi, with a message from the General Council of the kings, princes and supreme leaders of the army of the Blessed Cross. The anchorite took him to the chapel where Kenneth saw a wonderful vision. A procession of noble christian women, singing prayer songs, entered into the room through an invisible door. Kenneth was so much surprised that he took the processionists to be supernatural beings. When one of the maidens came near him, a rose bud dropped down on his foot while he was offering his prayers. When the procession took the last round, a charming, well-proportioned hand again dropped a rose bud on Kenneth's foot. He recognized that she was Edith who had done so in token of her lover for him.

The attendants of the king did not dare to give their counsel to His Majesty as they feared his rash and haughty temperament, but Sir Thomas De Vaux was unmindful of the consequences of the king's displeasure. He did not allow him to act contrary to the physician's instructions.

A sound trumpets was heard outside Richard's camp. He ordered Sir Thomas De Vaux to enquire into the cause of the disturbance. He discovered that it was on account of the arrival of a band of saracens. Sir Thomas met Sir Kenneth who had accompanied El Hakim. This physician was deputed by Saladin to



treat king Richard. Sir Thomas fully convinced himself of the honest intentions of, the hakim. He returned to Richard's pavilion with the information.

El Hakim delivered Saladin's letter to Richard. The Sultan had sent his own personal physician who had the gift of curing his fatal disease by means of the wonderful drug, Talisman. Richard was grateful to Saladin for this act of kindness. He thought that there was no reason to suspect his motives. He therefore put down the objections raised by the knights and allowed El Hakim to treat him. Richard recovered from his fatal slow and wasting fever as a result of this.

The Grand Master of the templars and the Marquis of Montserrat (or Conrade of Montserrat) conspired to sow the seeds of dissensions among the allies so that they might be compelled to give up their holy mission of conquering Jerusalem. They stopped down to the treachery under the delusion that if the allies succeeded, the power and prestige of their Orders would dwindle before Richard's supremacy in the conquered land, where as, if Saladin succeeded they would secure all privileges from him and thus their own Orders would flourish. In this way they would be able to maintain their elevated rank and superiority.

Conrade visited Leopold, Duke of Austria, while he was taking his meals. During the course of his conversation, he said that Richard I of England was the acknowledged leader of the European princes. All others were considered his subordinates and that was the reason why the banner of England was only hoisted on Saint George's Mount. Leopold could not tolerate this degrading remark which made the desired effect. The idea that he was considered inferior to Richard was unbearable for him. In the heat of excitement, he hastily decided to fix the Austrian banner beside the standard of England. Having succeeded in his evil design to arouse the Duke's hatred, he quietly slipped out to poison Richard's ears against Leopold. He came with the pretext of inquiring about his health and related to him what Leopold had done. It was, as a matter of fact, the outcome of his own mischief. He rushed to the spot and asked who had dared fix the Austrian flag. He angrily pulled it and tore it



to pieces. A warrior from Hungary aimed a deadly blow at Richard but fortunately it was intercepted by Sir Kenneth, the Scottish knight, on his shield. Richard hurled the warrior assailant down the hill such force that he broke his bone and lay quite senseless there Philip of France arrived there at this time. Owing to his mediation, the crisis was averted. The contending monarchs retired to their respective camps thereafter.

Sir Kenneth, the Scottish knight, was ordered to guard the flag of England in the night lest it might be insulted by the enemy. He stood there on his guard with his faithful hound Roswel. He suddenly began to bark at the approach of an unknown person. He was the dwarf Nectabanus who had come with Edith's message to meet her at once in her pavilion. He placed her ruby ring on Kenneth's palm and communicated to him the words, "Tell him that the hand that dropped the roses can bestow laurels." Hearing these words Kenneth was tempted to give up his duty and to meet his lady-love. On reaching the camp, he discovered by over-hearing a conversation of a few women, that Queen Berengaria had indulged herself in an idle frolic and Kenneth was called in the name of lady Edith. He repented for his folly. He met Edith for a minute, returned to his post hastily only to find, to his great sorrow, that the dog was seriously wounded by some one and the flag of England was removed from St. George's Mount.

With a heavy heart, Kenneth informed Richard about the flag incident. His anger knew no bounds. He condemned him to death. The grave news was communicated to Edith. She requested Queen Berengaria to run to the king to save the life of the brave innocent knight who was caught in the trap owing to the Queen's idle joke. She realized the gravity of the situation and her own responsibility in the matter. She therefore, decided to approach the king at once to obtain pardon for Kenneth's life. All her humble pleadings in favour of Sir Kenneth were in vain as Richard was not prepared to excuse the treasonable act. The Hakim, however, triumphed where the queen failed. Richard could not dare to refuse the Hakim's request to pardon Kenneth because he had saved Richard's life. Richard could not be un-



grateful to him. Kenneth was banished from Richard's Court as the physician's slave.

El Hakim and his retinue left Richard's camp for their home-land. On the way they made a halt at the fountain called the Diamond of the Desert. To his great surprise it was revealed to him there that El Hakim was none else than Saladin himself. The Scottish knight was shocked to hear from the Hakim that he loved Edith. Kenneth's new master, Saladin, asked him to go to Edith with his billet-doux in the guise of a dumb Nubian slave. The slave had but to obey the commands of his master.

Sir Thomas De Vaux presented the Nubian slave before king Richard. He delivered Saladin's letter in which he was informed that the dumb Nubian slave was sent to serve Richard in return of his gifts. The slave was appointed Richard's attendant.

A marabout pretending to be a buffoon, one day danced and amused Richard's soldiers. He was made to drink a huge flagon of wine to the bottom. He lay apparently senseless. After a while, when the soldiers had retired to the camp he was left all alone; his head to look round. The nubian slave watched his movements with suspicion. The marabout slowly dragged himself near Richard who was sitting with his back towards the slave. He was reading letters containing grave and disquieting news from England. The marabout, all of a sudden, leaped up and aimed with his sword a fatal blow at Richard. It was luckily intercepted by the Nubian slave. Richard's attention was drawn towards the scuffle. He killed the marabout instantaneously and expressed his gratefulness to the Nubian slave for saving his life.

The Nubian suggested to Richard that with the help of his hound, he would be able to discover the traitor who had removed the national flag of England from Saint George's Mount. All the princes, with their respective armies, were asked to pay their homage to the flag in turns. As suggested by the slave Richard, Queen Berengarian Edith the Nubian slave and his hound stood near the flag. Philip of France, Leopold of Austria honoured the flag, but when the turn of Conrade Montserrat came the hound rushed on him and caught him by the throat. The hound was made to give up Conrade's hold with great difficulty. Richard



accused him of treason against England. But the Council resolved that the issue should be decided by a combat. Richard accepted the decision.

The Nubian slave requested Richard to allow him to deliver Saladin's letter of love suit to Edith. He could not deny the request of one who had rendered him so many valuable services. He was therefore conducted to Edith's camp. At the first sight she recognized the slave to be Kenneth and was astonished to find that he had come as Saladin's messenger. She tore Saladin's letter to pieces and asked him to tell him what she had done to his letter.

The trial was held on the neutral ground called the Diamond of the Desert. Saladin was invited to witness the combat. Richard was represented by his champion Sir Kenneth. Conrade of Montserrat made the first attack by which Kenneth fell down from his horse. He at once recovered his position and in return, he gave such a mighty blow that Conrade was mortally wounded. He was rendered quite incapable of resuming the contest. In the presence of Richard, Saladin and his own supporters he confessed that God had justly decided his fate; he was responsible for the flag incident. He promised to make further confessions if his life was spared. Richard requested Saladin to save Conrade's life by the use of the Talisman.

It was proposed that the Marquis should be taken to Saladin's camp for treatment. The Grand Master of the Templars objected to it saying that he could not be left in the hands of the heathens. It was therefore decided that he should be treated in the Grand Master's Camp.

Richard and his party returned to their camp. Kenneth was honoured for his valiant victory. Sir Thomas De Vaux revealed to the king and the members of the royal family that Kenneth, who had played the role of the Nubian slave was as a matter of fact, David Earl of Huntingdon, Prince royal of Scotland! All were amazed at this wonderful discovery.

Saladin was busy in making arrangements for a banquet to which he had invited Richard and the members of the royal



family. Nectabanus came to him excited, took him aside to an adjacent chamber and whispered an urgent message in his ears and returned immediately. At this time Richard arrived with his party. He was honoured and welcomed as a brother king. Iced sherbet, the most delicious drink of the last, was offered to the Grand Master. Before his lips touched it, Saladin made a sign to Nectabanus who came forward and uttered the words. "Accipe hoc". This startled the Grand Master. Saladin drew his sword from the sheath, brandished it in the air and with great suddenness and quickness, cut the grand Master's head which rolled down on the floor. Richard, Sir Kenneth and others were filled with awe at this horrifying unexpected turn of events. They suspected treachery on the part of Saladin. They took up their arms to meet any emergency. But Saladin said that there was no cause for getting perturbed. He explained that the Grand Master deserved the fate because he had murdered Conrade of Montserrat for fear of being discovered as his accomplice in their series of treasonable acts. He produced the dwarf, Nectabanus, in evidence of his charges. He said that he had caught the Grand Master red-handed and had himself heard the words, "Accipe hoc," uttering which he had stabbed a dagger into Conrade's abdomen. By hearing the account Richard was satisfied at what had happened. He took leave of Saladin and retired to his pavilion with his party.

Philip of France came to Richard and informed him that urgent business at home required him to return at once. He could not be persuaded to prolong his stay till their mission was fulfilled, Leopold of Austria also deserted Richard and returned. Other crusading princes similarly began to leave the Crusading army every day. Richard himself was disturbed by unpleasant news from England. The chiefs, at home, were fighting among themselves owing to party factions. There were no prospects of winning the war against Saladin. Richard therefore was compelled to return leaving the task, in hand, unfinished. Saladin's desire of marrying Edith was frustrated. Earl of Huntingdon alias Kenneth was espoused by Edith Plantagenet.



## CHAPTER I A DEADLY CONTEST

### Introduction:—

During the days of Crusades, Kenneth of Scotland, heir apparent of the Scottish king, was once journeying through a desert in Syria. He suddenly marked that a stranger was advancing towards him. He was discovered to be a Sarcen. The Crusader and the Sarcen were at once engaged in a deadly combat which however terminated in a truce between them.

### Summary:—

1 Kenneth, a knight of the Red Cross, was slowly pacing along a desert in Syria. His dress and the equipment, which his horse carried for protection, were too heavy for a journey through such a hot country. Nature had gifted the knight with such a strong constitution that he could boldly challenge the unfavourable climate of the land. He did not mind the privations and fatigue of the long, unpleasant, tedious journey of the sandy desert.

2 Kenneth, the knight of the Sleeping Leopold, was however, pleased to see at some distance a few palm trees under which he could take rest and refresh himself for his onward journey, but as destiny had willed it otherwise, he had to encounter an unexpected dangerous turn of events before he could enjoy his well earned rest.

3 The knight of the Couchant Leopold noticed on the approach of the stranger that a Screen cavalier was advancing towards him but he could not make out whether he was approaching as a friend or a foe. He cautiously prepared himself for any emergency because the crusader remembered an eastern proverb. "In the desert no man meets a friend"

4 The Sarcen was already well prepared for an encounter with the Crusader. In order to delude Kenneth, the Sarcen charged twice with full vigour—but each time retreated without meeting his antagonist. When the Sarcen charged for the third time, the European knight gave such a deadly blow at his enemy that he was beaten down from his horse on the ground. With



wonderful quickness, the Sarcen recovered his lost position and with a leap, he at once settled himself firmly again on the back of his horse.

5 The Sarcen, then, made use of his bows and arrows. He discharged six of them, they could not render any serious injury on the body of Kenneth but, the seventh aim proved dangerous. The knight, being seriously wounded, fell heavily on the ground apparently quite senseless. When the Sarcen approached the crusader to examine his condition, he suddenly found himself in the grapple of the knight. The Sarcen cleverly loosened his girth by which the knight was firmly holding his enemy, and there by, made good his escape. His quiver, arrows and sword were left behind.

6 Sheerkohf, the Sarcen, considering his weakened position came to the Crusader in a friendly attitude. He made a proposal for a truce and extended his right hand towards Kenneth. The Crusader returned the good will gesture with a response and a smile. Both the warriors made a pledge to keep the truce and went towards Kenneth. The Crusader returned the good will gesture with a response and a smile. Both the warriors made a pledge to keep the truce and went towards the grove of palm trees to enjoy rest.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *Describe the dress of Kenneth and equipment of his horse.*

Ans:—The dress of the rider and the equipment of his horse were totally unfit and too heavy for a journey through such a hot country. He put on a coat of mail and carried a steel breast plate. He suspended round his neck a triangular shield and covered his head with a helmet. His legs and things were also covered with flexible mail, had put on plated shoes to cover his feet. On one side of the knight hung a double edged short sword. To add to this already heavy dress, he had put on a surcoat.

The equipment of the horse was heavier than that of the knight. The saddle was plated with steel. The front of the horse was covered with breast plates and behind, the lions were covered with defensive armour. To the saddle bow hung a steel axe.



The reins were made of chain work.

**Q. 2** *Imagining yourself to be Kenneth, describe how you fought with the Sarcen and ultimately became friendly with him.*

**Ans:—**Render paragraphs of the summary from III to VI in the first person.

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## CHAPTER II EAST VERSUS WEST

**Introduction:—**

In this chapter, the reader will find that the two warriors presented a striking contrast to each other in person, features, conduct, manners, meals and thoughts. In their excited conversation about their differences in religious and social customs, hot words were exchanged between them, but just as the battle ended in their friendship, this conversation also concluded by making them closer friends. As the road was infested with robbers, Sheerkohf offered his help in conducting Kenneth safely to the cave of Theodorick of Engaddi with whom he had decided to pass his night.

**Summary:—**

(1) The two champions slowly proceeded towards the fountain of palm trees, each one was absorbed in his own reflections for a while. This silence and slow speed afforded to the horses an enjoyable time of relaxation. They reached their destination, unharnessed their horses in their own ways and refreshed themselves by the cool drink at the fountain.

(2) Both the warriors sat down together on the turf. Each was diametrically opposite to the other in body as well as mind. Kenneth was sturdy and strong like a Goth, with light brown thickly curled profuse hair on his head. His nose was well formed like that of a Greek. His mouth was proportionately large. His teeth were strong well-set and beautifully white and his head was small. He had a tail powerful athletic physique.

(3) Shreerkohf was three inches shorter than the European. His limbs were slender and he had long spare hands and arms, his face was deeply embrowned by the scorching sun and his



features were small and delicate. He had flowing curled black beard which was peculiarly trimmed in an eastern fashion. The nose was straight, eyes were keen, black and glowing. The beauty of his milk white teeth equalled the ivory of his country.

(4) The contrast was more striking in their refreshment. The food of the Sarcen was temperate, while that of the European though coarse was genial. The food and drink of the former consisted of a handful of dates, a morsel of coarse barley, bread and few draughts from the fountain, while that of the Christian consisted of hogs flesh, hated by the Moslemah, and he drank from a leathern bottle. The Emir fed simply within no time but the European ate with great ease and comfort. He therefore required more time in concluding it. After the meal, he thanked God according to his custom.

(5) To the mind of the Sarcen, the formalities of the European were mere showy and useless, hence, he could not help making the remark that the Christian could fight like a man but fed like a dog. Kenneth answered that he was at liberty to eat-hog's flesh—what was denied to the Muslem. To this, the Sarcen retorted that by doing so he had degraded himself to the position of a brute or a beast. The European returned that he was uttering abuse at the gift of God. The Sarcen was not prepared to accept defeat by keeping quiet and remarked that Kenneth was invain boasting of his so-called liberty when he was restricted in his choice of keeping more than one wife whether, she, whom he had once made her consort, was unhealthy or quarrelsome. This, the Sarcen thought was slavery. The Crusader admired the devotion and faithfulness of Christian fair ones. The Sarcen charged that the Christian warriors were made the tools of their women's pleasure. The European said that if he were not on a pilgrimage, he should have proved the truth of his statement companion could not go to Jurusalem without a pass, so he should return and lead him to king Richard's Court. Kenneth showed a pass under the hand and signed of Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt. The Sarcen reverently bowed his head and kissed it. He remarked that, if Kenneth had showed the pass to him, when they first



met, the deadly contest might have been averted. In this way, the disagreeable conversation luckily took a turn for the good and made them sincere friends.

(6) As the road was infested with robbers, the Emir promised to conduct the Crusader safely to the dwelling place of hermit, Theodorick of Engaddi, where the Christian knight had decided to make his halt.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 Compare and contrast the physique, features and manners of the Frank and the Saracen.*

*Ans:—*Read paragraphs 2, 3, 4 of the summary.

*Q. 2 Write in your own words the conversation that passed between the two knights.*

*Ans:—*Read paragraph 5 of the summary

## CHAPTER III THEODORIC OF ENGADDI

### Introduction:—

Kenneth and Sheerkohf resumed their journey. In the way they talked more familiarly with each other. Sheerkohf, like a guide, showed to the Crusader the hills, plains and caverns of that part of the country. Suddenly their conversation was interrupted by the appearance of a tall man clothed in goat-skin. He furiously attacked the horse and its Saracen rider because he, being a Muslim, was the hermit's arch enemy. After a while, the hermit let him loose and conducted both the visitors to his cave where they took their refreshment and rest.

### Summary:—

While resuming their journey, the Christian knight quenched his thirst and asked Sheerkohf the name of the fountain. The Saracen answered that in the Arabic language the name meant 'The Diamond of the Desert.' In the way Sheerkohf worked as the stranger's director and guide. He showed to him, the distant rocks, plains and caverns. In reply to a question by his fellow traveller, the Crusader said that his name was Kenneth of the Couchant Leopard. The Saracen informed the Christian that



he was called Sheerkohf, the lion of the Mountain and that he had his royal descent in the line of the Sultan of Egypt. The Emir was now in a jolly good mood. He said to the Christian "Please let me know the name of that blessed damsel on whom you have bestowed your love." "It is true," said Kenneth, "that she is undoubtedly noblest and highest but her name can not be revealed."

Just at this time, their attention was diverted by a figure who was seen advancing towards them. He was a tall man clothed in a goat-skin. He suddenly rushed at the Sarcen, first seized the horse of the Pagan and then pressed his neck with such a firm grip that he was nearly throttled. He struggled very much to get himself released but all his efforts were in vain. The Sarcen threatened that he must at once be set free otherwise he would stab the stranger to death. But the enemy did not budge an inch. On the contrary, he snatched the dagger from the hand of his opponent and brandished it on his head. Being very much alarmed at his critical situation, Sheerkohf excitedly appealed to his companion to come to his immediate rescue otherwise the stranger would kill him. The reader may know that the stranger was none else but Theodorick of Engaddi. The Crusader warned the stranger that if he did not stop fighting, he would be compelled to fight on behalf of his companion as he was pledged to do that. Hamako-Theodorick of Engaddi—answered that it would be a just quarrel indeed if a brother of his own faith would combat with him for the safety of a Pagan—saying this he left his hold.

The Sarcen severely scolded Kenneth for his masterly inactivity in such dangerous moments. The Christian defended himself by saying that, due to his utter confusion, he could not make out any thing about the grounds of their quarrel. under the impression that they came from the same lineage, he could not immediately decide what action he should have taken on that occasion. Sheerkohf, however, did not admit this excuse but still accused him of his slackness. He also informed the Western warrior that the stranger was not his kith and kin but belonged to



the faith of the Crusader himself. The European was astonished when this secret was disclosed to him. The stranger himself said that he was Theodorick of Engaddi. The stranger began to brandish round his head a club. He, then, showed his mighty strength by breaking with the club a big stone to pieces. The Scottish knight was again bewildered when the anchorite took three forward bounds which might have brought credit to Theodorick in a Gymnastic competition and he said, "He is a mad man." The Sarcen knew his characteristics better and informed Kenneth that he expected them to follow him. Theodorick asked them to follow him and the two warriors obeyed him. On reaching his cave, the hermit at once made preparations to receive the two visitors. On a table he served reeds, pulse and flesh which whetted the appetite of the guests. The Emir knew the mind of Theodorick. He said to Kenneth that the hermit as was his habit would not talk till they had finished their meals. At the end of it, Theodorick offered Sherbat to the Sarcen and a flask of wine to the Scot. He requested them to drink the gift of God.

Sheerkohf gave some more information about Theodorick. He said that the hermit used to send letters to the Poles and Councils in which he gave accounts of the atrocities which the Christians suffered at the hands of the unbelievers. Kenneth was entrusted with the duty of communicating to Theodorick certain matters and for this very purpose he had decided to stay with the hermit.

Theodorick pointed to the two guests the two beds which he had made ready for them by this time. Accordingly they went to thier respective beds, and shortly fell fast asleep as they were tired and exhausted by the journey.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *Imagininging yourself to be a spectator, describe the quarrel, as you saw between the Sarcen and Theodorick.*

Ans:—When I was relaxing by the side of a rock, I saw that two horseman were advancing from one direction. When they approached nearer, they seemed to gaze at a big figure who was at some distance from them. When I turned my attention in the



opposite direction, I could also mark that he was a mighty man with athletic frame. He had put on goat skin. He jumped in the middle of the path and barred their advance. I was marveling at the overpowering strength, with which he held the reins of the Sarcen's horse and pulled it on one side, the Sarcen avoided the fall with the greatest difficulty by throwing his full weight on the other side. This formidable foe, left the reins, but the next moment, he threw the iron ring of his mighty arms round the neck of the Sarcen. It was pressed so hard that the Sarcen was almost suffocated. I heard him say angrily, "Hamako-fool,—leave me, otherwise. I will use my dagger."

I was keenly watching this fight. Hamako said, "Infidel dog, hold your dagger firmly." In an instant he snatched the dagger from the hand of his antagonist and brandished it round his neck. The Sarcen cried aloud, "Help, Kenneth immediately, and at once, otherwise, this Hamako will kill me."

At this time the Sarcen's companion, who was a European intervened and warned the stranger to leave him, otherwise, he would fight on behalf of his companion. Hamako, thereupon, left the hold of the Sarcen, His life was thus saved.

**Q. 2** *What do you know about Theodorick of Engaddi? Why was Kenneth bewildered and confounded at him?*

**Ans:—**He was tall, mighty, active man, clad in goat-skin. He overpowered the Pagan with his superior physical force. He hated the non-believer but loved the Crusader of his own faith. He ended the fight only at his interventions; otherwise he might have killed the Sarcen. He was too much devoted to his religion. He wrote letters to Popes informing them about the cruelties which the Muslims practised on the Crusaders.

He was a man of strange habits. He made wild gestures, and behaved like a mad man. He brandished his club recklessly unmindful of the fact that it might break the head of any of the bystanders. He, then, exhibited his physical strength by breaking with his club a big stone to pieces. When Kenneth doubted whether he was Theodorick, he said in a wild tone; "I am Theodorick of Engaddi. I am the torchbrand of the desert, I am the



flail of the infidels.....!" His behaviour was such that it did not befit a hermit.

Theodorick walked so swiftly that the two warriors could not keep pace with him. He stopped in way from time to time to enable the two warriors to make up the gap between them. He also guided their way with a torch of wood dipped in bitumen. He entertained his guests by offering them food, drink and resting place. He was very hospitable but again it was his habit that he would not speak to the guests while they were eating. When their meal was ended, he said, "Drink my children." It was again bewildering that he was kindly treating the Sarcen whom he was shortly before going to kill.

These astonishing contradictory manners and habits of Theodorick filled Kenneth with amazement.

## CHAPTER IV THE VISION OF KENNETH

### Introduction:—

Theodorick awakened the Scot from his sleep without disturbing the Sarcen. He led him to a chapal where the knight saw a wonderful vision. A procession of maidens appeared to issue from the door. One of them was Edith—the lady love of Kenneth. As a mark of recognition and love, she twice dropped rose buds at the feet of Kenneth and disappeared.

### Summary:—

(1) Kenneth, the Scot, was awakened from his sleep by the pressure of heavy weight which he left on his chest. On opening his eyes, he saw that the anchorite was backoning to him to keep quiet and asked him to follow him stealthily. When Kenneth took up his sword, the anchorite forbade him to do so and said that they were going to a holy place where spiritual powers were useful but not at all the temporal ones. The Sarcen meanwhile lay fast asleep, undisturbed.

(2) Theodorick led Kenneth to an outer room before the cross and altar. He ordered the knight to bring a veil from the nearby place and he acted accordingly. Before revealing to him



the secrets of the holy place, the hermit demanded of the Christian his credentials so that on satisfaction he might be relied upon.

"My pass word," said Kenneth. "is this—kings begged of a begger." "It is right," said the hermit, "I know you well, yet as a cautious sentinel. I must challenge friend as well as foe.

(3) Leading Kenneth into an inner apartment the anchorite asked him to bind his eyes with that curtain as he was not destined to see the treasure. After a while, an iron door was opened. Behind that, there were three staircases, one leading the other. When they had reached the top of the third one, the Crusader directed Kenneth to put off his shoes and said that the ground on which they stood was holy. Kenneth knocked the door thrice. It opened automatically throwing a flood of light and giving out richest perfumes.

(4) Kenneth saw, to his amazement, that it was a chapel with an altar, behind which there was a curtain of Persian silk. The knight knelt down and offered his prayers. His attention was diverted towards the curtain which moved of its own accord from one side to the other. He saw that there was a niche and the whole structure resembled a Gothic Church. The two doors opened. On a piece of wood, he read the words 'Vera Crux.' The song Gloria Patri, began to be audible in a chorus of female voices. At the end of the song, the curtain was again drawn, but knight continued his prayers in devotion to the holy relic before him. When he looked up, he saw that the anchorite, having covered his head and eyes with the curtain, was still meditating, while his head was resting on the threshold of the chapel in reverence of the diety.

(5) The Scot was about to speak to Theodorick when he was informed that he must continue to watch as the vision was not yet over. By this time, it was day dawn. He heard, coming from an unknown quarter, the sound of a silver bell. The knight got ready to see the unexpected scene; the indication of its approach given by the ringing of the bell.

(6) The Silken Curtain was again with drawn. The same



relic was presented to his view. He heard prayer songs—sung by female voices. They gradually became louder when the group of singers entered into the room through an invisible door. Four boys entered in a procession by two and two. The first two carried censers, the other scattered flowers all round. They were followed by the females of the choir; six of them were nuns but the rest appeared to be mere occasional visitors to the chapel. The procession slowly passed by so near Kenneth that the robes of the processionists touched him. The knight was so much surprised that he thought the members of the choir to be supernatural beings.

(7) A rose bud suddenly dropped down from the hands of one of the maidens and fell on the foot of the Scot who was startled at it. When the procession took a round. Kenneth gazed at a maiden and his look followed her slow but majestic movements. When she came very near the kneeling knight, he beheld a charming well-proportioned hand stretched out and dropped again a rose-bud at his feet. This was not merely incidental but a deliberate act. Kenneth also observed the most valuable ring on her finger and could mark the tresses of her most beautiful hair. She was none else but his Lady.Love.Edith. The Scot wondered how she could be there contrary to his expectations. She had dropped the buds twice to indicate that she had recognized her lover and that she had availed herself of the opportunity to express her feelings by such a novel device. She was very nearly related to king Richard of England. When the Choir returned, the door was closed and the vision was over.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q. 1** *What amazing sights did kenneth see within the chapel ?*

**Ans.** Read paragraphs from 3 to

**Q. 2** *What do you know about Edith? How did she present the token of her love to Kenneth?*

**Ans.** Edith hailed from the royal family of England. She, a near relation of king Richard, was in love with



Sir kenneth. the Scot, and cherished for the knight sentiments of love and chivalry which were also reciprocated by him. She found that kenneth, though brave in the battle field, was a timid and bashful lover. As she was surrounded by the maidens of the choir, she had to restrain and suppress her emotions lest they should have been discovered by them.

In the latter part of the vision which began with the ringing of the bell, he saw that a procession of maidens, following that of four boys, issued from the door. One of the maidens was Edith. She carried roses in her hand. When the procession passed the second time, Edith dropped some rose buds on the foot of Kenneth. He was astonished at this unexpected favour from an unknown person. When the procession took the third round, Kenneth marked one of the maidens who drew nearer to him. As a mark of recognition, honour and a token of her love, she again dropped a rose-bud near Kenneth's feet. The knight now fully realized that the person was none else but Edith-her lady love.

## CHAPTER V

### THE RETURN FROM THE CHAPAL

#### Introduction:—

An ugly dwarf Nectabanus and his wife, Guenevra entered and started cleaning the room. As soon as they had done their job, they were commanded to return at once. They slipped out of sight. The knight and the hermit, then, returned from the chapel to the cave.

#### Summary:—

After an hour, a shrill whistle was heard in the Chapel. A trap door was raised; from it rose a hand holding a lamp. Slowly the figure ascended the steps and entered into the room. He was an ugly disgusting dwarf but was richly dressed. When Kenneth saw him, he was reminded of the earthly spirits who are supposed to live under ground and to guard the treasure; This figure summoned his companion who also entered in the same



way. She was dressed in similar clothes and was holding a lamp in her hand. She was the dwarf's wife.

They started cleaning the room. While doing their job, they reached the knight, and brought their lamps near his face. Seeing him in the light, they turned their faces at each other and cried aloud with a laugh. When Kenneth asked who they were, the dwarf said, "I am the dwarf Nectabanus, and this, my companion, is Guenevra, my wife." Just at this time, they were commanded to return and they slipped out of sight. The door was at once closed. The knight felt a relief on the return of the most unwelcome creatures.

Theodorick, having finished his prayers, got up and asked the knight to return to the Cavern. Kenneth guided the way with a lamp. Both returned to the hermit's cave.

## CHAPTER VI.

### IN THE CAMP OF KING RICHARD

#### Introduction:—

King Richard was confined to his sick bed in his camp. Sir Thomas looked after his health and served him most faithfully without minding the king's haughtiness. One day, trumpets were sounded outside the king's camp which greatly alarmed him and he asked Sir Thomas to enquire about it.

#### Summary:—

The scene now changes from the chapel to the camp of King Richard of England where was stationed that army with which the English king hoped to win Jerusalem. He would have certainly succeeded in his holy mission but the jealousies of the christian princes hindered it, especially the discord between Richard and Phillip of France and the offence taken by the princes at the haughtiness of King Richard had destroyed the hopes of victory. The feudal leaders, with their bands, daily deserted the army. As a result of this its strength was every day being weakened.

Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt, being encouraged by the discord among the crusaders, besieged the camp by light cavalry.



Richard never faltered on such trying occasions. With redoubled courage, resolute vigour and strength he made through preparations for a war; but unfortunately he fell a victim to a slow and wasting fever peculiar to Asia. He could not ride his horse and attend the war councils of the crusaders. A truce of thirty days was settled with Sultan Saladin. Richard was restless, because of his physical inability and inactivity; but he could console himself at the thought that, while he was confined to his sick bed, others were not winning laurels of victory.

The attendants of King Richard never dared to persuade him to follow the directions of the physicians because they were afraid of king Richard's rash and haughty temperament; but Thomas de-Multon, unmindful of the evil consequences of the King's displeasure, compelled him to obey the physician's instructions. He valued more the king's welfare than the risk which he might incur by offending the king. He took upon himself the duty of administering to the king the medicines prescribed by the physician and gave him light refreshments at the proper time. None else had the courage and influence to persuade the monarch to take the medicines regularly.

One day during the course of his conversation, the King enquired of Sir Thomas if he had no good news to communicate to him and without waiting for a reply remarked that the knights had turned women. The ladies had become devotees and there was no spark of bravery left in the camp of chivalry. The knights explained to the King that, owing to the truce with Saladin, the arms were at rest and the ladies were in attendance of the queen who had gone on pilgrimage, under Saladin's protection, to the convent of Engaddi to pray for his speedy recovery. The king expressed his gratitude for the generosity of the Sultan. In the heat of excitement, he suddenly stretched out his sinewy arm and tried to raise himself up from his sick bed but, like a most faithful nurse. Sir Thomas compelled the King to lie down and take complete rest.

Their conversation was interrupted by the sound of trumpets heard very near the King's camp. The King again lost the



peace of his mind. In a state of feverish excitement, he charged Sir Thomas to go and enquire what it was about. When he hesitated to leave him alone, Richard got up from his bed, but with the help of the Knights and attendants, he was made to repose. The King realized that Sir Thomas was so harsh because he was most loyal. He was determined to serve him and secure his recovery even at the cost of his own life. King Richard repented for his rash behaviour saying that it was fever which had insulted and ill-treated Sir Thomas but not the king himself. The knight directed the attendants to look after the king while he went out to find the cause of the disturbance outside the king's camp.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 What do you know about Richard's nature and temperament? Why did not Sir Thomas de Multon take offence at the King's haughtiness?*

**Ans.** Richard was rash and haughty. He very often got irritated at his most loyal and faithful servant. It was more so because of his continued physical and mental illness.

One day he angrily enquired of Sir Thomas if he had no better news to convey to him. He was so impatient and disturbed that he at once charged the knights of turning themselves to women and later on found out that the ladies too had become devotees. He showed this alarm at the idea that the ladies had put themselves in risk by going to the convent of Engaddi. Sir Thomas pacified the king by telling him that, owing to the period of truce, the knights could not show their feats of bravery and the ladies were safe at the convent because Sultan had promised to protect them.

When king Richard heard the sound of trumpets, he again got irritated and raised himself up from his bed, but owing to the alterness of Sir Thomas, he was forcibly prevented from doing so. This is again an evidence of the king's haughtiness which was aggravated owing to his prolonged sickness and uneasiness. Richard was noble and magnanimous. He repented at his own impatience of mood when he recovered the peace of his mind and reverently requested Sir Thomas to forgive him.



Sir Thomas did not take offence at the king's repeated frequent fits of anger and impetuosity, because he knew that the honour of England was safe in the king's hands. His life must be saved at any cost. He, therefore, nursed & served the king in his sickness unmindful of the latter's anger and rashness of temperament. He determined to see that the king's health was not allowed to deteriorate by his unwarranted exertions and activities. He, therefore, remained calm and quiet of the king's violent provocations.

## CHAPTER VII THE TWO KNIGHTS

### Introduction:—

Sir Thomas De Vaux left the king's court to enquire about the cause of the noise outside and discovered that it was an account of the arrival of a band of Sarcens who were playing upon their musical instruments. Sir Kenneth came to the king's camp with El-Hakim who was deputed by Saladin to cure king Richard. Sir Thomas fully convinced himself of the honest intentions of the party and returned to the king's camp.

### Summary:—

Scottish bands had joined the crusaders under the command of king Richard. The germs of enmity, which were so far dormant, now thrived, in the hearts of the Scots and the English during the king's sickness.

Of all the English nobles, Sir Thomas De Vaux was most prejudiced against the Scots. He had waged wars with them and both the sides had many a time suffered calamities.

Thomas De Vaux discovered that the Sarcens were playing upon their pipes and kettle drums. When he had advanced a little distance, he met Sir Kenneth on the way and at once recognized him. Sir Thomas tried to avoid a talk with him but Sir Kenneth obstructed his way. He said, "I have very urgent business with you, Sir De Vaux." Sir Thomas answered, "As I am going on the king's errand, be brief in what you have to say."



Sir Kenneth returned that his work with the king was more urgent than that of Sir Thomas and added that he had brought with him a Moorish physician who could undertake to work a cure on King Richard. Sir De Vaux suspected the honesty of the Knight and that of the physician. With grave anxiety, he enquired of Sir Kenneth as to who would stand surety for the king's life, if the Moorish physician gave him poison. Sir Kenneth, thereupon, assured him that king Saladin of Egypt had deputed El Hakim to treat King Richard. He had also sent an honourable retinue with him befitting his high position and dignity in Saladin's court. Sir Kenneth offered himself as guarantee for the king's life. Sir Thomas was stonished to find that a Scot was giving a pledge on behalf of a Turk.

Sir Thomas De Vaux enquired of Sir Kenneth how he became known to Saladin. The knight answered that he had been sent on an errand by the General Council of the king's princes and leader of the army to the holy hermit of Engaddi and from thence he had been to Saladin's Court. Sir Kenneth refused to disclose the hermit's reply. He maintained that he was responsible to the Council and to none else. Sir De Vaux got offended at this bold reply and rejected the proposal of the Scot to employ El Hakim for the king's treatment. But Sir Kenneth was not to be deterred by this opposition. He declared, on an oath, that if any thing wrong happened to the king's life, he himself would be responsible. He fervently appealed to Sir Thomas that a king's word ought to be trusted. He said that he was very anxious to save the king's most valuable life. He also assured him of Saladin's generosity and good intentions and pressed that he would certainly cure the king's malady specially when he had seen with his own eyes that El Hakim had already succeeded in curing one of his own soldiers who had been suffering from a similar fatal disease. In testimony of the fact, Sir Kenneth took Sir Thomas to the hut in which the Squire was receiving his treatment. The patient had fallen asleep when both the knights entered. El Hakim, who was sitting cross-legged in an eastern style, informed that by the time the Muezzin calls from the minaret for even-



ing prayers, the patient would be able to converse with them if he was left undisturbed.

The two knights came out of the hut and while they were engaged in a brief conversation, Kenneth's dog approached and began to play with him. Sir Thomas admired the dog's activity and altness and informed Sir Kenneth that according to the king's ordinance, no one was allowed to keep a hunting dog in the king's camp but as he was authorised, he would send a protection for the dog. Sir De Vaux received the knight's credentials which he had brought from Saladin. Having obtained more detailed information about El Hakim's visit, he returned to the king's camp. Both the knights, thus, departed as better friends than they had first met.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 Why was Sir Thomas De Vaux most prejudiced against the Scottish knight? E'ucidate from their conversation that Sir De Vaux hated the Scot.*

*Ans:—*Sir Thomas De Vaux was prejudiced against Sir Kenneth and the Scots because there was national disunion between the two nations. Sir De Vaux was frequently engaged in wars with Sir Kenneth and both the sides had suffered calamities at the hands of the enemy. Sir Thomas, therefore, despised the Scots.

Sir Thomas avoided his meeting with Sir Kenneth on the way when the letter was coming towards him. It shows his hatred for the Scot. He asked Sir Kenneth to be brief in his conversation on the pretext that he was going on a very urgent business of the king. This again shows his neglect for the knight. The Lord of Gilsland, in his talk, remarked that he had thought of his bringing the king of England wealth but had certainly never known him to be a physician. In spite of the best assurances of the Scot, Sir Thomas could not believe him until he saw with his own eyes that the squire was recovering by the effect of the Hakim's medicines. Sir De Vaux tried to know from the Scot the purpose of his conversation with the hermit of Engaddi. Being a knight of high rank, he should not have been tempted to know



the hermit's reply and the object of the Scott's mission. but, on the contrary, he got angry when he refused to disclose to him the secret.

The behaviour of Sir De Vaux and his conversation with the Scot, thus, show that he was prejudiced against him and despised him.

## CHAPTER VIII THE HAKIM OF SALADIN

### Introduction:—

The Sultan on learning His Majesty's grievous illness, deputed his own physician for the King's treatment. Before he was allowed to examine the king, Sir Thomas De Vaux saw with his own eyes the magic effect of his medicines when he cured the sergeant. King Richard was very grateful to the Sultan for his goodwill guesture and generosity.

### Summary:—

Sir Thomas returned to the King's camp and gave an account of his enquiries. He said that Sir Kenneth was deputed by the Council of the Crusade on a mission to the convent of Engaddi. The Scot declined to disclose to Sir Thomas the object of his mission. He met a Sarcen on the way with whom he had a bloody encounter, but it ended in reconciliation between them. When the Scot's mission at the convent was over, the Sarcen took him to the court of King Saladin. The Sultan on learning His Majesty's illness undertook to send his own physician to treat the king.

(2) Sir Thomas said to the king that the physician was escorted with mounted guards and foot soldiers as if he were a prince and had brought with him the credentials from Saladin. Sir Thomas presented to Richard the English translation of their contents in which he had prayed to Allah to shower his choicest blessings on his brother king Richard to whom he had assured that by God's grace his most capable personal physician would certainly cure him of his fatal disease.

(3) Having heard the king's message Richard, for himself,



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 had no cause to doubt the Sultan's intentions. On the contrary he was filled with gratitude for his generosity, good wishes and deep concern for him, But Sir Thomas was a knight of different mettle. He would not allow the king to be taken in. He would first assure himself of the Hakims's sincerity. The King lost his temper at the knight's doubts and hesitation. The knight was a loyal servant and the safety of the king's most precious life was uppermost in his mind so he did not mind the king's scoldings.

(4) He decided to consult the Archbishop of tyre in the matter. Both these man resolved that they should first watch the effect of the Hakim's medicines on the sergeant and wait for the result. The Hakim should be permitted to treat the king only if he would succeed in his first undertaking, ( that is the treatment of the sergeant ). They entered the patient's hut and requested the physician to show his worth. The Hakim said that the proof of his skill lay in the recovery of the patient but they should patiently wait till the evening to see the magic effects of the marvellous medicines.

(5) The physician offered his evening prayers. He drew a sponge from a silver box, soaked it with some aromatic, distillation, and put it on the patient's nose. To the astonishment of all those present, he sneezed, awoke regaining his consciousness, recognized the presence of the dignified spectators, and pulled the covering on his head as a mark of respect for them. He also gave relevant answers to the Archbishop's queries. He said to him in a feeble voice that he had a long sleep full of dreams and that the speaker seemed to be an English man. Sir Thomas felt the pulse of the sergeant and found that it was beating composedly. The fever was also gone. Sir Thomas was fully convinced at the recovery of the patient and decided to present the Hakim to the king.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 What did Sir Thomas say to the king about Sir Kenneth the Sultan of Egypt and the Hakim ?

Ans:—Read paragraphs 1, 2, 3,

Q. 2 How did Sir Thomas De launce convince himself of the



*Hakim's sincerity and merits ?*

**A. s.:**—Read paragraphs 4 and 5.

## CHAPTER IX KENNETH AND KING RICHARD

**Introduction:—**

Richard made several enquiries from Sir Kenneth about his mission to the Covent of Engaddi and what he saw there. He also received a deputation of ambassadors of the Council of Crusaders. El Hakim was then brought to the king's camp and there he started the treatment.

**Summary:—**

(1) Richard summoned Kenneth, the knight of the Leopard. He came and bent his knee in respects of the king; he did so not in subservience but in respect for him. The king asked who had conferred on him the knighthood. Sir Kenneth answered that he had the honour to receive that from William, the Lion, king of Scotland. Richard again enquired of him as to who had sent him on the mission without his permission and what it was about. The knight said that he was sent by the council of princes of the Holy Crusaders and it was for that body to say why he was sent there. When the king induced him to tell him the purport of his mission, he told him that his object was to achieve permanent peace with Saladin so that the army of the Crusaders might be withdrawn from Palestine. It was to be fulfilled through the mediation of the hermit of Engaddi. He informed the king that a sealed letter was delivered by him to the hermit so he did not know the terms of peace. Richard could hardly suppress his passion with which his heart began to burn on hearing the startling news of Scot's peace mission. He was more restless because such attempts were directly being made without his knowledge. The king said that the hermit of Engaddi should not have been relied upon as he was foolish and mad. The Scot contended that the hermit's madness would be turned to their account as the Muslims think a mad man to be inspired by heaven. Richard, then, wished to be enlightened on the hermit's penitence. The



knight answered that it was sincere and seemed to be in repentance of some dreadful crime which he had probably committed in the past. The king was not contented with that much information. He again asked the knight why the hermit had adopted the policy of reconciliation. Sir Kenneth replied that he had to take recourse to that policy as the arms of Richard had ceased to secure Palestine.

(2) At this stage, the king changed the topic of his conversation. He said, 'Saw you may royal consort when at Engaddi?'

'To my knowledge no, my Lord,' replied Sir Kenneth. 'I ask you,' said the king in a sterner voice, 'whether you saw Berengaria, Queen of England, and the ladies of the Court who went there on pilgrimage?' Sir Kenneth said, 'My Lord, I heard a choir singing hymns in praise of the holy relic of the Chapel but I did not see their faces.'

"And was there none of the ladies known to you?" The king said with an angry look. "My Lord," replied Sir Kenneth, "I might guess."

(3) The conversation was interrupted by some bustling in the outer apartment. The Chamberlan said to the king that a deputation from the Council had come to wait on His Majesty. The Ambassadors were the Grand Master of the Templar and the Marquis of Montserrat. On their entrance these gentleman paid homage to the king and informed him that they were sent by the Council of Crusaders to enquire about the health of his Majesty. The king ironically said, "The Council, indeed, must have suffered a lot by suppressing their curiosity for fourteen days about my health, but they did very well keeping a check upon it, lest they should have aggravated my sickness by expressing their anxiety to me earlier." The ambassadors were nonplussed when they heard the king's retort. However, one of them took up the thread of the conversation and prayed to the king to desist from receiving the Hakim's treatment as they suspected treachery in Saladin's plan. The king then directed the ambassadors to go to the adjoining pavilion. The ambassadors obeyed the king's command and left his royal apartment.



(4) The Marquis and the Grand Master met El Hakim in the outer pavilion. He saluted them in an eastern fashion. The Grand Master returned it indifferently and said to El Hakim, "Infidel, have you courage to treat the person of the king?" The Hakim replied, "I am commanded by my master to heal the king and I must obey. I hope to succeed in my mission." Sir Thomas arrived at this time. He told the ambassadors that they should not emerge further delay in his work. The Marquis warned Sir De Vaux of the disastrous consequences of the hasty ill-considered decision to allow the infidel—an enemy—to tamper with the king's health. They had requested him so on behalf of the monarchs and princes of the crusaders.

Sir De Vaux answered that he was fully satisfied with the Hakim and trusted him. Marquis of Montserrat informed Sir De Vaux that the king had wished their presence near him during his treatment by the Hakim. Sir Thomas permitted them to stay in the royal apartment if they promised to keep quiet and did not intervene in the process of the treatment. When they agreed to it, the party entered into the king's room. Richard felt the Hakim's pulse before he allowed him to examine himself. The Hakim remarked that it was beating calm as an infant's and added that the pulse of one who attempted to poison did not throb so. The Hakim then examined the king. He filled a cup with it to the king. His Majesty drank the cup to the bottom and dropped on the cushion quite exhausted.

The physician beckoned every one except Sir Thomas to leave the tent. The room was soon cleared accordingly.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 Describe the conversation that took place between Kenneth and the king.

Ans:—Read paragraphs 1 and 2.

Q. 2 Describe how the ambassadors discharged the work which was entrusted to them.

Ans:—Read paragraphs 3 and 4.



## CHAPTER X AN ARCH CONSPIRACY

### Introduction:—

The Grand Master of the Templars and the Marquis of Montserrat conspired to sow the seeds of dissensions among the allies so that they might give up the mission of their holy crusaders and Palestine be left in the hands of the Sultan of Egypt. They stopped down to that meanness under the delusion that if the allies succeeded, the power and prestige of their orders would dwindle, but if the Sultan succeeded they would flourish.

### Summary:—

The Marquis of Montserrat and the Grand Master of Knights Templars went out in the open to enjoy the evening breeze. They spoke for a while on military defence but, later, their conversation changed to religious matters. The Marquis expressed the fear that, if the allies won in Palastine, their position in that country would be degraded by the new masters. The proud knights of St. John shall have to serve the sick and wounded soldiers in hospitals and the knights of the Templars shall have to sleep three on a pallet and ride two upon a horse. The Templar angrily replied that the rank and privilege of his Order would not submit to that degradation. Montserrat again emphasized the point to the Grand Master that their Orders would lose their independence. The Templar enquired from the Marquis about their chances if the allies failed and the Sultan won in Palastine. The Marquis, at once, answered that Empires arose and fell frequently in the East. As long as the Sultan lived, they would receive protection and freedom from him. After his death, disorders would take place in the Empire, and they would be left free to carry on their work with complete vigour and briskness. Their power would reach the zenith when new young men, imbued with the spirit of service to the Holy Cross, would enter into the country to serve their Order, but in case the allies won, they would be thrown in the background.

The Grand Master agreed with the Marquis to what he said and asked what steps they should take to avert such a cat-



astrophe. The Conrade of Montserrat suggested that they must try to sow the seeds of dissensions among the allies to defeat them in their purpose.

The Templar became very anxious to put the plan to execution as soon as it was possible for them to do so. Conrade said that he would first try to break peace between Austria and England. The two ambassadors, then, departed to their respective dwelling places.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 What do you know about the Grand Master of the Templars and the Marquis of Montserrat?*

Ans:—The Grand Master of the Templars and the Marquis were the ambassadors of the Council of the monarchs and princes of the Crusades. They were deputed by the Council to enquire about the health of king Richard and to warn him against the danger he would put himself in, if he allowed the physician of the Sultan to tamper with his health.

The Grand Master was an Italian and Chief officer of the knights of the Templars which was a religious military Order of protection of pilgrims to Holy Land.

The Marquis of Montserrat was the head of the knights of St. John. It was an order of knights who took part in the Crusades; their work was of a peaceful nature, viz to attend to the wounded and the sick.

The heads of these Orders aspired to flourish in Jerusalem even at the cost of the defeat of the allies i. e. the Austrians, the French and the English—the Crusaders.

*Q. 2 Why did the Grand Master and the Marquis conspire to bring about rupture among the allies. How far were they justified in their machinations?*

Ans:—The Marquis of Montserrat said to the Grand Master that if the allies won in Jerusalem, their bright chance to achieve full fledged prosperity in that country would be lost, and their Orders would be thrown in the background. The political powers would put the case of the religious Orders in the cold storage, but, if the Sultan won, there were chances of their pro-



sperity, as Empires in the East rose and fell frequently. The upheavals would give them free hand to flourish.

The Conrade of Montserrat proposed that they should try to cause rupture between Austria and England.

They were Christians. They should not have adopted unjust and most unfair means to achieve their selfish ends. Their machinations can not be justified in any way. They should rightly be condemned for their moral degradation specially when they were heads of religious orders.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE CONSPIRACY MATERIALIZES

#### Introduction:—

With a view to sow the seeds of discord between Leopold of Austria and Richard of England, the Marquis of Montserrat instigated the former on one hand, and poisoned the ears of the latter against the other. Owing to this dual game, the two monarchs became the enemies of each other. In this way, Conrade of Montserrat succeeded in his evil design to loosen the union of the crusading princes.

#### Summary:—

(1) Leopold, Grand duke of Austria, wished very much to enjoy the friendship of Richard but he was so simple that he played in the hands of a crafty ruler. Philip of France who was Richard's rival in the politics of Europe. He was so clever and cautious that he never gave out his feelings to any one. He desired to unite all petty crusading princes on his side against Richard to weaken his position. He also thought of winning over Leopold to his side, and thus offer resistance to the power of Richard. Conrade of Montserrat, under these circumstances, found chances to dissolve or loosen the League of the Crusaders.

(2) Conrade of Montserrat requested audience with king Leopold when, in all pomp and Majesty, he was taking his meals. Conrade was invited to partake of the same and honoured with a seat by the king's side. Conrade presented to him best Cypres wine. The king was more interested in the funny amusing talk



of his sayer of sayings'. Another Court jester also played his part well with his wit and humour.

(3) In the course of his conversation, at the first opportunity, Conrade said, 'Honour must be given to whom it is due, but, the king of England takes pride at the idea that he is the crusading princes. In the events of victory, the whole credit would go to him and the sacrifice and valour of the allied princes would sink into insignificance.' Leopold of Austria was annoyed at the unwelcome remark. He answered that the princes were friends of Richard but not his vassals. As they were fighting on a footing of equality for the holy cause, Richard had no reason for giving pre eminence to himself. Conrade pointed out the banner of England in proof of what he had asserted about Richard's superiority over other princes.

(4) The king of Austria was led away by the feelings of vanity and jealousy. He thought that the absense of the banners of Austria and France was an insult to the two powerful nations and added that he had already reminded Philip about their duty to defend the rights of inferior princes lest they might be dominated and their power usurped by Richard. Conrade of Montserrat knavishly said that there might be some secret reasons for Leopold's submission to Richard. The king's pride was again touched by this cunning remark. Leopold at once decided that the national flag of Austria should also majestically fly by the side of the banner of England.

(5) Leopold lost his temper. He got up from his seat amid cheers and rejoicings, took the Eagle of Austria, approached the flag of England, laid his hand on it to remove it and wished to pitch the flag of Austria in its place. He was advised by his men to refrain from doing so. He, however, fixed the Austrian flag beside that of England. Conrade of Montserrat at this critical moment purposely and quietly disappeared from the crowd. Leopold took the above step to assert that he was Richard's equal and not his subordinate.

(6) The scene now shifts to the room of Richard where he was being treated by the Hakim. The time when the king



was to be awakened, was approaching fast. The Hakim had announced that the fever was gone and there would be no need of giving a second dose of the powerful medicine, as was generally the need in case of other patients. The king gained his consciousness in a short time. He had recovered from his sickness. Rubbing his eyes, he got up quiet refreshed. He demanded of Sir Thomas De Vaux what amount of money was in the royal coffers. Sir Thomas could not at once tell the sum. The king, in his joy, said that all that was stored in the treasury should be given to the Hakim as his reward, but, if the sum was less than a thousand byzents, it should be made good by jewels.

(7) The Hakim expressed his gratitude for the honour which was bestowed upon him. He advised the king to take complete rest till his strength was fully restored. The king accepted the advice and lay on his bed to take rest, but, he was disturbed by shouts and music outside the camp. He ordered Sir Thomas De Vaux to make enquiry.

(8) Sir Thomas returned soon. He decided to conceal from the king an account of the happenings outside the camp lest it might impair His Majesty's health again. However, he said that Leopold was marching in a procession. Conrade of Montserrat was playing a double role. He came to the king on the pretext of enquiring about his health, but, as a matter of fact, he wanted to inflame the king's fury by misrepresenting the events which took place outside the king's camp. They were really the outcome of his own conspiracy. Sir Thomas De Vaux drew himself near the king's side, signed with his eyes to Conrade to keep quiet, but, as he aimed to bring about discord between the two kings, he said that Leopold was removing the flag of England and fixing that of Austria in its place.

(9) Richard could not bear the reported insult for a moment. He at once left his bed, clothed and with a naked sword in his hand, rushed on to the spot. Kenneth and Sir De Vaux, realizing the gravity of the situation, followed the king to prevent the impending disaster, but they could hardly keep pace with him. The king burst through the retinue of the Austrian king



and angrily demanded the name of the person who had dared to place the Austrian flag beside the banner of England. Leopold was taken by surprise at the sudden arrival of Richard. He had to summon his courage before he could utter a word. He said that he himself had done so. Richard angrily pulled the flag of Austria, tore it to pieces, put his foot over them and challenged the Austrian dukes to do what they liked.

(10) In their suppressed voices, the Dukes and the king of Austria opposed and condemned Richard's act. A warrior from Hungary came forward and gave a deadly blow on Richard's body which might have proved fatal, if it had taken full effect. But it was interrupted by Sir Kenneth on his shield. The king caught the Hungarian warrior by his waist and threw him down the hill with such a terrible force that he rolled down on its otherside, broke his bone and lay as if he was quite dead. At this marvellous display of Richard's superior strength, other Austrian Dukes dared not renew the strife which had begun so un auspiciously for them.

(11) At this critical moment, the king of France arrived on the spot. He enquired about the cause of the quarrel. He was a sagacious politician. Having known the facts, he explained to the king of Austria that it was inopportune to plant his banner on a footing of equality with that of England since he himself and all others had admitted Richard as the leader of the crusading princes. He continued that by such acceptance they could in no way be considered inferior to Richard. They had done so for the holy common cause of fighting and conquering jointly the infidels in Jerusalem.

(12) The king of Austria proposed that the matter should be put before the general council of the Crusaders for decision. The idea was liked by the king of France but was rejected by the king of England. He said that he could not put the honour of England at stake. He warned that, any one even he might be the king of France, who dared to dishonour the banner of England, would meet death. Philip of France tried to avert the crisis. He departed from Richard as a brother king, Leopold also retir-



ed. Richard ordered Sir Kenneth to guard the flag of England. He promised to defend it at the cost of his life.

Marquis of Montserrat was very much elated at his desired success. He explained to the Grand Master how his plan had successfully materialized in loosening the bonds of the crusading princes and he expressed the confidence that he would bring about final and complete rupture among them in the near future.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 How did Conrade of Montserrat succeed in sowing the seeds of discord between Leopold and Richard? How does such activity reflect on his character.*

*Ans:—*Having decided with the Grand Master to bring about disunity among the Crusading princes, Conrade seriously thought about achieving his purpose. He happened to see the banner of England flying in the air. A glance at it gave him an idea to adopt a plan of conspiracy.

Next day he visited Leopold, Grand Duke of Austria when he was taking his meals. During their conversation Conrade said that Richard was the acknowledged leader of the Crusading princes. All others were considered inferior to him in power and prestige and that was the reason why only the flag of England was allowed to fly but not the flags of other countries. He made those remarks with the evil intentions of arousing the vanity and jealousy of Leopold. He could not bear the idea of being inferior to the king of England. He lost his temper. In the heat of excitement, he hastily decided to fix the Austrian banner by the side of the flag of England. He was about to remove the British banner but he was advised to refrain from taking that step. He, however, planted his flag beside that of England.

When Conrade saw that he had succeeded in the case of Leopold, he decided to play a similar game with Richard. He went in his camp and informed him that Leopold had insulted Richard and his nation by removing the ensign of England and placing in its place the banner of Austria. In this way he played the dual game of a villain and succeeded in prosecuting his dark designs to the end.



Richard and Leopold became each other's deadly enemy. The solidarity among the Crusading princes was broken.

The part played by Conrade reveals that he could stoop down to use most unfair means to achieve his selfish ends. The role of Conrade shows that he was an arch plotter and a villain.

## CHAPTER XII LOVE REIGNS SUPREME

Introduction:—

When Kenneth of Scotland was guarding the national flag of England in the moon-lit night, Nectabanus came to him with a message from Edith that he should meet her at once in a camp near by. Kenneth was tempted to give up his duty and obey the commands of Love. He charged his faithful dog to guard the flag and he followed Nectahanus to meet Edith.

Summary:—

Kenneth of Scotland stood on his watch, in the moon-lit night to guard the flag of England from being dishonoured by the enemies. His hound was, by his side, ready to warn his master against and impending danger. After a couple of hours, the dog suddenly barked aloud, suspecting an approach of hostile foot-steps. Kenneth prepared himself to make an assault on the man. A dwarf, who was most strangely dressed, emerged out of the bushes and stood meekly before him. Sir Kenneth took no time in recognizing him. He was one of the dwarfs whom he had seen in the chapel of Engaddi. He informed him that he was the same Nectabanus.

He told him that he was summoned by Edith. He should instantly see her in the camp near by, Kenneth said that he was unable to comply with the request, as he was duty-bound to guard the flag till day-break. He could not, in any case, leave the flag. Kenneth could not forget the pressing request of Edith. Nectabanus placed upon the palm of Kenneth a ruby ring and told him that he was asked by its owner to see her immediately. Kenneth at once recognized the ring. He hesitatingly asked the messenger how far the place of the lady was from the spot. He



said "It was very near." He also communicated to him the following words of the princes:—

"Tell him that the hand which dropped roses can bestow laurels." When Kenneth heard the words he was reminded of the vision he had seen in the chapel of Engaddi. He was tempted to avail himself of the golden opportunity to meet his lady-love. He forgot his mission and the evil consequences of neglecting his duties. If any untoward incident took place in his absence on the spot where the banner of England was flying. He decided to return at once. He threw his mental and charged his hound to keep a watch till his return. He followed Nectabanus but as he was walking at a snail's space, Kenneth grew very impatient at the delay. He lifted the Nectabanus upon his back, and very soon reached the pavilion of the princess. It was pointed out to him by the living burden on his back. Nectabanus raised the canvas and directed Kenneth to creep in. For a moment he thought that it was most unfair and degrading to do so, but he was determined to please his lady-love at any cost. Hence he crept under the tent & reached the pavilion.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 "Tell him that the hand which dropped roses can bestow laurels". Who said this and why?

Ans:—It was supposed that these words were said by Edith, the beloved of Kenneth, she sent a message to him to come and see her. The following incident was referred by these words sent with Nectabanus.

When Sir Kenneth was in the cave of Engaddi, he was conducted by the hermit to the chapel where he saw a vision. There he noticed that a procession emerged out of a door. The members dropped flowers while they passed. When the procession was taking a second round, one of the maidens in the procession dropped rose petals on the foot of Kenneth who was thus suddenly startled. Kenneth's attention was drawn by a figure among the maidens of the procession. While taking the next round she again dropped a rose bud. Kenneth gazed at her face, from and stop. When the procession passed by Kenneth he saw



a beautiful well-proportioned hand coming out of the garment. All doubts about the person vanished when Sir Kenneth saw a ruby ring on her finger. When she came near him again, the third time she dropped a rose bud on his feet. She was Edith.

The hand referred in the message was that of Edith who had dropped roses. Kenneth was tempted by the suggestion given in the message that the same hand that dropped rose might also bestow laurels on him. By the wordings of the message, Kenneth realized that it was genuine message as none else knew the reference made there in. He valued his love above his duty and followed Nectabanus to meet Edith.

## CHAPTER XIII A RISKY JOKE

### Introduction:—

Queen Bernagaria, the wife of Richard, sent Nectabanus to Kenneth with the message that he was required to be present before Edith at once. To convince him of the genuineness of the message, he put the ruby ring of Edith on his palm. As a matter of fact, the queen wished merely to enjoy a joke with Edith and to show her that Kenneth put love above every thing else in the world. Though the queen succeeded in persuading the knight to give up his duty, the joke proved calamitous for those who were involved in it.

### Summary:—

Kenneth had to wait for a considerable time before he could have an audience with the princess. While waiting upon his lady love, he overheard a conversation in which he found himself deeply interested. He gathered from it that a fraud was afoot to prove to Edith that he would fall in his duty for the sake of love. He also guessed from a loud voice that Queen Bernagaria was taking an active part in it. For a moment, he thought of retreating to his post at once, but when he heard about Edith's approach, his curiosity was aroused to know how far she was responsible in the whole affair. Kenneth was gratified and much pleased to know that Edith was deadly opposed to the



idle hazardous joke. The queen and her attendants had forcibly obtained the ruby ring of Edith as a wager against the golden bracelet of her Majesty which she had offered on her behalf. The queen maintained that Kenneth would give up his duty for the sake of Edith whereas the princess did not agree to it. She was not prepared to put at stake the honour and life of the brave knight Kenneth on her account. She, therefore, did not like to be a party to the frolic. She was, however, dragged into the joke against her will. From the whole conversation which Kenneth overheard from behind the curtain, he realized that he was deceived. Kenneth heard that Edith was very much agitated by the information about his arrival in the camp, leaving the post of his duty. She said that she was ready to give a bushel of rings or rubies before a brave knight was put to disgrace or punished for her sake. The Queen also seemed to be perturbed by the warning given by Edith. She assured her that she stood as a pledge for the life of Kenneth. Edith prayed to the queen to despatch the Knight at once to his post lest any untoward event might occur to endanger his life.

The queen could no longer while away her time in the joke. The curtain fell. Kenneth stood before the ladies. Edith, shedding her bashfulness, approached Kenneth and said, "Hasten to your post, valiant knight! you are deceived in being trained hither, ask no question." Bending upon one knee, Kenneth asked for her forgiveness because he believed that his services were required by her. Edith answered that there was nothing to forgive him. Kenneth then offered her the ruby ring but Edith asked him to keep it with him as a mark of her regard.

The Scottish knight could no longer waste a moment but immediately returned. As he emerged out of the camp, he heard the fierce barking of his dog. He feared that it might be his hound's death cry. He ran as fast as he could and stood on the platform. To his great horror, he discovered that the flag had vanished, the flag staff was broken and his hound, being seriously wounded, was about to breathe his last.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q. 1** *Why was a risky joke indulged in by the queen and her attendants? What was its result? What part was played by Edith in the whole affair?*

**Ans:**—The queen and her attendants merely wished to enjoy a merry joke with Edith. They decided that in the name of Edith, Kenneth should be asked to meet her in the queen's camp. To convince him of the truth of the messages, Edith's ruby ring was sent with the messenger, Nectabanus. The plot succeeded admirably. The Scottish knight believed that his services were required by Edith and he gave his duty for the sake of love.

The queen, by way of fun, wanted to put Edith in an embarrassing situation and wished to enjoy her uneasiness. She was induced to give her ring as a wager against the queen. The winner was to be rewarded with the bet offered by the antagonist. Edith was dragged into the jest though she knew it quite well that it might put Kenneth's life in danger.

The queen was determined to carry the joke to the finish. She was unaware of the grave consequences she did not mean harm either to Kenneth or to Edith, but the inevitable was to follow the idle merry-making.

In the absence of Kenneth from the post of duty the enemy had done the mischief of removing the flag from the spot. The flag staff was also broken and the dog was seriously wounded.

Thus it proved a disastrous fun. The part played by the queen was deplorable, but Edith proved herself to be a true, sincere and farsighted lover. She displayed a noble character and a faithful heart.

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## CHAPTER XIV THE LOYAL KENNETH

**Introduction:—**

The Hakim offered his services to treat the wounded hound. He tried to win over Kenneth to the side of the Sultan. He induced him to run away to the court of Saladin and obtain his



shelter there. Kenneth was true to his religion and country. He could not be induced by the Hakim. The Scottish Knight emerged victorious in his trial.

### Summary:—

Sir Kenneth's first object was to trace out the miscreants who had violated and insulted the flag of England. To his great sorrow, they were to be found no where. his attention was immediately drawn to his wounded dog, Roswal. He lifted him up in his arms and fondly caressed him. The faithful dog forgot his serious pain, began to lick his master and wagged his tail. Kenneth was mentally much oppressed at the negligence of his duty and the serious condition of his most faithful dog. He felt extreme mortification and gave way to a burst of agonies and wept aloud.

(2) Sir Kenneth was startled by an unexpected voice which he heard behind him. It was that of the Arabian Hakim who consoled Kenneth in his misfortune. He offered his services to treat the dog. Sir Kenneth acceded to his request and told him that if the hound recovered, he would be his new master. The Hakim clapped his hands. At this signal, two men appeared before him. They carried away Roswal in a room for treatment.

(3) Kenneth was relieved of the anxieties about the dog but the thought of the insult to the flag was still agonising him. He said to the Hakim that he could heal a wounded patient but was helpless to treat a wounded spirit. The Hakim asked him to explain his calamities. The knight related the incident of the disappearance of the flag. The Hakim said that Mohammad had to flee to Mecca to seek shelter from his enemies. The Christians had frequently to leave their native land in the past for a similar purpose. The sages did like wise very often. Following the same course, he should go to Saladin to obtain protection from the vengeance of Richard.

(4) A burnt child dreads fire. Kenneth was not a fool to be seduced once again. The Hakim assured him that, on account of his mediation, he would be honoured and respected in Saladin's court. Kenneth refused to agree to his proposal. In order to in-



duce him to accept his advice the Hakim disclosed to Kenneth that several crusading princes had already made overtures of peace to the Sultan, but he rejected them all, thinking that it was below the Sultan's dignity to open negotiations with petty chiefs. He was, however, prepared to accept all terms of peace unconditionally if Richard proposed them on his behalf. He was even ready to put a seal on their friendship by accepting the proposal that Edith should be made his royal spouse.

(5) The knight was astounded to hear the incredible secret. He was still more amazed to know from the Hakim that Philip of France, Henry Champagne and others were the originators of such degrading proposals which were also to be put up before Richard by the Arch priest of Tyre.

(6) Kenneth's patriotism was kindled by such treacherous design of the allies. He made it quite clear to the Hakim that if any one else had given him counsel to run to the Sultan for protection, he would have instantly killed him. Kenneth hated the Hakim for his vain persuasions and expressed his repentance for the gift of the hound to the Hakim. He proposed to return the hound of Kenneth on his recovery. The Hakim departed to his camp and Kenneth took the road Richard's pavilion.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q, 1 *How did Kenneth stand the test of his fidelity?*

Ans:—Read paragraphs 3 to 6.

#### CHAPTER XV

#### KENNETH BEFORE THE KING

##### Introduction:—

The Scottish knight, with deeply gloomy face, stood before Richard to give a sad and shocking account of the preceding night's incident. The King could not tolerate the treachery of the knight. Had De vaux not thrown himself between the king and the knight, the latter would certainly have been instantly killed. On account of the queen's arrival, Kenneth was ordered to be removed from the king's room to a separate tent where he was disarmed and put in fetters.



**Summary:—**

(1). The knight of the Leopard entered the king's tent. Hearing his foot-steps, Sir De Vaux said, " who comes ? ". The king was awakened by the cautious enquiry. He welcomed the arrival of the knight who, he thought, had come to give an account of a safe, honourable and vigilant watch. Sir Kenneth said, " My watch has nither been honourable nor safe. The banner of England has been carried off. " The king did not believe the knight and warned him that he should not make a joke with the king and added that he was a liar. Sir Kenneth emphasized that he had spoken the truth. The knig could no longer bear the dishonour done to the flag of England. Bursting into fury, he charged De Vaux to enquire about the incident. But he was interrupted by Sir Henery Neville who came breathless to inform that the banner of England was carried away and the spot was bespattered with blood. The king raised up his sword, but thinking of the blood-shed on the spot, He waited to make further enquiries. On learning that it was merely the blood of a dog and not that of the enemies, he aimed a deadly blow to kill the treacherous Scottish knight. Sir De Vaux threw himself between them and saved Kenneth's life. The Knight asked for permission to speak to the king. He allowed him to do so thinking that he was going to make his confessions.

The Scottish knight said that there was treason which would injure him more deeply than the loss of hundred banners. He added that there was a scheme to give the hand of lady Edith to the Sarcen Saladin with the object of purchasing peace. It would not only be most disgraceful to christendom but most shameful to England. Contrary to the expectations of Sir Kenneth, the information made an adverse effect on Richard. He said, " What is it, I say, to thee, or any one, if I should please to ally myself to truth and valour, in the person of Saladin."

The conversation was interrupted by the announcement made out side the king's pavilion that the queen had arrived to pay her visit to His Majesty. In order to avoid chaffing with the traitor in the queen's presence, the king ordered Kenneth's re-



moval to a separate tent. He was at once conducted to the place, disarmed and put in fetters.

Sir De Vaux persuaded Sir Kenneth to disclose to him the truth about the incident, promising to obtain the king's pardon when his anger subsided. The knight told him that he had nothing to say. Sir De Vaux then left the tent in a melancholy mood.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *How was Kenneth scolded and hated for the gross negligence of his duties?*

Ans:—Read the summary of the chapter.

## CHAPTER XVI THE QUEEN REPENTS

Introduction:—

The consequences of the jest proved serious. In the morning a servant of Edith came with the message that the flag was missing and the knight had disappeared. Edith ran to the queen with the grave news. The queen bitterly repented and promised to save the life of Kenneth by her royal intervention. The queen and her party hastened to the king's tent.

Summary:—

(1) Berengaria was one of the most beautiful women of the period. Her complexion was matchless in the country. She had a profusion of fair hair and looked younger than she really was. The king found more amusement in talking to Edith, but the queen had no grudge with her on this account though she appeared depressed. The attendance of the queen discovered that they could remove the depressed mood of the queen if they could make fun of Edith. Since then they were on the look out for means of amusements with her. Their first attempt was to bewilder Kenneth when he was alone in the Chapel of Engaddi by sending a frightful, ugly, peculiarly dressed dwarf and his consort. Kenneth maintained his courage. So the joke failed to make any effect on him.

(2) The consequence of another joke proved serious. During



the absence of the knight from the post of his duty the enemies had torn the flag. Kenneth was imprisoned and awaiting orders of execution for the gross negligence of his onerous duties.

(3) Next morning a female, whom Edith had sent to make an enquiry, informed her about the turn of events. She hastened to the queen to use her good offices to protect the knight's life which was at stake due to her (queen's) idle amusements. The queen tried to console Edith and promised every help, but she repented most bitterly for what she had done. Lady Calista arrived at that time and told the ladies that Kenneth's life could be saved if no moment was lost. The queen in her extreme grief said that he would vow a candlestick to the Holy Sepulchre, a shrine of silver to Lady of Engaddi and a pall worth hundred bezants to Saint Thomas of Orthez, if Kenneth's life was saved.

Berengaria, Edith and the attendants hastened to Richard's camp to undo the serious wrong which was done by the merry-making of the queen.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 Write what you know about Queen Berengaria.*

**Ans:—**Berengaria was a high born lady. She was the queen consort of Richard. She was one of the most beautiful women of her period, her hair were profuse and fair, her features were so juvenile that she looked much younger than what she really was. Though she loved Richard most passionately she feared his haughty temperament. She went on a pilgrimage to the Covent of Engaddi where she prayed to the Goddess for the speedy recovery of Richard. She was informed at the Chapel that Edith was in love with Sir Kenneth. Though the king was more interested in conversation with Edith, she never grew jealous of her. On the contrary, she respected and admired her. The maid-servants of Berengaria explained her that the devotion of Edith to Sir Kenneth could be used as a means of their frequent innocent merry-making. The idea appealed to the queen and consequently they got Kenneth removed from the post of his duty. This frolic, unfortunately put Kenneth's life in danger. Berengaria was good natured and simple. As a matter of fact she never meant harm



done to Edith or Kenneth. She repented for her blunder, prayed to God for the safety of Kenneth's life, and herself ran to the king to plead for Kenneth's innocence and to admit honestly her responsibility in the whole affair.

## CHAPTER XVII THE QUEEN INTERVENES

Introduction:—

Berengaria and Edith made their humble entreaties to the king to save Kenneth's life but he turned down their requests. He was not willing to listen to any one when England's honour was at stake. He also rejected a similar request of the holy hermit of Engaddi and asked all of them to leave the room, at once. Only the Hakim could persuade him to postpone the execution.

Summary:—

(1) Most reverentially, the guards forbade the entry of the queen and her party into the king's pavilion. Berengaria was nervous and nonplused at the first opposition, but Edith came to her help with courage, and all the emphasis at her command, she demanded of the chamberlain to give way to Her Majesty the Queen, as the wife wanted to meet the husband on most urgent business. The servant could not withstand the pressing request and the queen entered into the king's apartment. He was lying on a couch. An executioner stood in front of him with a sword, four feet and a half inch in length. He was waiting there for the king's commands to execute Kenneth.

Berengaria rushed to the king's side, took his arm in both her hands, and rested her brow on it. Her first request was to get the ghastly figure removed from her side, as she could not bear to witness him. She, then, craved for Richards's pardon. "Pardon! For what"? asked the king. "For boldly entering your tent and asking a boon for one poor life" replied the queen.

"If it is that of the Scottish Knight, it can not be granted. He is doomed, he shall die." Returned the king sternly. The queen promised to replace silken flag by a new one which would be decorated with pearls and sprinkled with the tears of her



gratitude. "All the pearls of the east cannot compensate the dishonour done to the national flag of England, nor can the tears of a woman, however great she may be, can wash a stain on Richard's fame", said the king. With these words, he set aside Berengaria's request. She then sought Edith's help to speak on her behalf. She boldly said to the king that she craved for justice, not for mercy, and reminded Richard that it behoves the great to listen to the call of justice. The king promised to pay due attention to Edith. She explained that unfortunately Sir Kenneth had fallen in the snare spread for him in a joke. He left his post of duty for a short time when a message, in her name, was communicated to see her in the queen's tent. Edith prayed for mercy because Kenneth had committed the fault under strong temptations. She added that if he was not pardoned she was prepared to weep for the memory of one who was to die on her account. The king's wrath was excited to the highest pitch and he was about to make an angry reply when he was interrupted by arrival of a monk who, throwing himself on his knees, implored the king to stop the execution.

The monk was none else but the hermit of Engaddi. The monk assured the king, on solemn oaths, and in the name of the holy life he lived in the chapel, that he would never betray the king and persuaded him not to go astray from the path of duty and righteousness. He continued that the youth had divulged him a secret and if the same was made known to him he would have nothing to repent for cancelling the order of execution. But the king stamped his foot in anger. The pleadings of the royal ladies and the hermit fell on his deaf ears. He asked them to quit the room instantaneously, otherwise, he would issue such orders as might displease them.

The impending crisis was however averted by the timely arrival and mediation of the Arabian Hakim. He expressed his wish to have a talk with the king in private matters of vital importance and interest to him. Richard promised the queen to postpone Kenneth's execution and requested them to retire as he was to be immediately in conversation with the Hakim.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q. 1** *Why was Richard adamant in refusing the requests of Kenneth, Berengaria, Edith and the hermit of Engaddi? Why was he favourably inclined to El Hakim?*

**Ans:—**Kenneth was bold and straight forward in telling the naked truth about the flag incident. He was a brave knight. He admitted his fault and was prepared to face the consequences bravely. He was caught in a trap like a rat, but he was so noble that he did not even think of exposing the responsibility of the queen in the whole affair. He did not care to save his life but was anxious to save the honour of Christendom and England. It was with this object that he gave out to Richard the secret proposal of allied princes to marry Edith to the Sultan of Egypt for purchasing peace.

The king did not believe Kenneth because he thought him to be a traitor. He was, therefore, determined to put an end to his life.

Berengaria intervened on behalf of the knight because she knew that Kenneth would be executed on account of her idle amusement. Edith did, like the Queen, implore to protect her lover's life, but in vain. In spite of Edith's respectful advice, the queen enjoyed a risy joke at her expense. She was more repentant because Kenneth was to be sacrificed for the loss of the English flag.

The king could not allow the interference of the ladies at all specially when the prestige of England was at stake. He was a patriot. He valued the honour of England more than any thing else in the world. For this very reason he did not listen to the humble requests of the holy hermit of Engaddi.

The Hakim was the savior of his precious life. He could not be ungrateful to him. He was, therefore, bound to listen to him. Richard proved himself to be a true christian gentleman by being favourably inclined to him but at the same time he was determined to defend the honour of his country.



## CHAPTER XVIII

## THE HAKIM AND THE HERMIT

## Introduction:—

The Hakim persuaded the king to pardon Kenneth. He was most reluctant to accede to his request. He told him that he should not be an obstacle in the execution of justice to which he was sworn as a king. The Hakim pronounced that Richard was ungrateful, reckless and ungenerous. The king could no longer refuse his request. He therefore, cancelled the order of Kenneth's execution.

The Hermit of Engaddi entered the king's room with Sir Thomas De Vaux. The king was surprised at his revelation that he was of the blood of royal Lusignan and of the brave Godfrey; former leaders of the crusades. The king respectfully followed his advice.

## Summary:—

(1) Richard said to Adonbec, for that was the name of El Hakim. "What brings you here, learned physician?"

"Great king", said Adonbec, "Allow me to say that you owe me a life." And you want one from me in return?" replied the king, "I pray for the life of Sir Kenneth, My Lord." Said the Hakim.

(2) Richard told Adonbec that he would very gladly release a thousand captives at his word, but he could not forgive the Scottish knight for his treachery and dishonour he had brought to his country. He asked him to desist from pleading Kenneth's cause and added that the fault of the knight was so serious that he did not deserve any quarter from him. The Hakim said, "The life of many men depended upon Your Majesty's granting this boon." Richard was astonished to hear this strange remark. He asked the Hakim to explain what he had asserted. The Hakim said that he cured patients by the magic power of the medicine Talisman, but, one, who used it, must cure twelve patients in a fortnight, if he wished to retain the power of the drug. He added that if one failed to do so the effect would be lost and both the last patient and the Hakim would be exposed to worst misfor-



tune. The Hakim continued that he required one more patient to be cured to make up that number; hence he craved for Kenneth's life. The King asked Adonbec to find some one else in the camp whose life he could save. He refused to pardon Kenneth and pointed out to the Hakim that he was not his councillor. The Hakim still insisted on his demand. He said that Richard was ungrateful and he would bring shame to him by defaming him for his ingratitude. Richard abused the Hakim in fury for his audacity. He was so much excited that he would have stuck the Hakim with his sword but some how or other he controlled his feelings. He reluctantly granted the Hakim his request, but was dissatisfied with what had happened.

(3) Sir Thomas De Vaux entered into the king's apartment followed by the hermit of Engaddi. No sooner Richard had seen Sir Thomas than he ordered him to go to the Archduke of Austria and accuse him of the insult done to the banner of England. The king directed him to say to the Austrian monarch that he should return the flag within an hour. Sir Thomas hesitated a moment to carry out the king's command, because he knew that they would make the dissensions among the crusading princes more serious, but when the king repeated his orders, he turned to obey them.

(4) The hermit of Engaddi at this crucial occasion, stepped forward, prayed to the king to recall the hasty, ill-considered order which might break the unity among the princes of the crusader. He reminded him of the oath of unity which the king had sworn for the holy cause. Richard's anger was subsided. He said to the sage, "I am willing to keep to my vow, but what recompence are they going to make for the insult my country and I have suffered at their hands?" The hermit informed Richard that Philip of France had summoned an urgent meeting of the council which, after due consideration, had taken a serious view of the incident. It had ordered the replacement of the flag on Saint George's Mount. The hermit also told Richard that the council had declared a price for one who would discover the criminal and put him to death.



(5) "But what would be done to Austria who seems to be the author of the deed?" remarked Richard. The hermit said that he had agreed to submit to the orders of the council. The king expressed his thanks to the wise hermit for averting a crisis. He revealed to Richard that he was a discondant of Lusignan and Godfrey, who were the renowned horses of crusades of the 12th century. He told the king that he was Alberick Mortemar who had participated in the holy wars.

(6) The king was filled with reverence for the anchorite. He recalled to his mind the brave deeds of Alberick which had brought fame to Christendom in the crusades of the past. He paid his homage to him. The hermit encouraged the king to do his duty well and returned to his cave.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *How was Sir Kenneth's life saved?*

Ans:—Read paragraphs 1 and 2.

Q. 2 *What part was played by the Hermit of Engaddi in preventing disruption among the crusading princes?*

Ans:—Read paragraphs 3 and 4.

## CHAPTER XIX THE TIDE TURNS

### Introduction:—

The chief of the crusade sent Archbishop of Tyre as their messenger to meet the king. He said that owing to the disunion among the chiefs it was deemed proper to make an honourable peace with the Sultan of Egypt and to cement it by marrying Edith to Saladin. The king attended the council meeting which was called to decide the issue. By his valiant speech, he inspired among the princes the spirit of services and sacrifice for their faith. They composed their differences, accepted Richard as their leader and were determined to fight to the last for the defence of their church.

### Summary:—

Archbishop of Tyre met the king as the messenger of the Council. He told the king that Saladin had mobilized all his for



ces. His preparations for war were in full swing where as the European princes had lost all zeal owing to their mutual dissensions. The Council had, therefore, thought it advisable to make an honourable peace with the Sultan. The Archbishop also informed the king that the peace was to be cemented by marrying Edith, with Saladin.

Richard hated the very idea of a compromise. The proposal of marrying his kinswoman to an infidel was still most disgraceful to him. He recollected that Kenneth, the Hakim and the hermit of Engaddi had already given him a hint about this secret degrading decision of the council. Richard cautiously gave a patient hearing to the Archbishop. He did his best to deceive the king by converting him to his view point. He quoted instances of similar alliances in the past. To dispell all doubts from Richard's mind, he said that the alliance would bring manifold advantages to christendom without a drop of blood shed. He tempted him to accept the proposal. Because Edith's marriage, with the Sultan would pave the path for converting the Sultan to christianity.

The discouraging arguments put forward by the Archbishop of Tyre depressed for a while the brave king Richard. He looked gloomy and dejected. He cast off his lethargy, summoned up his patience and courage at that crucial moment. He said to the messenger of the council that he neither accepted nor rejected the peace proposal but he had decided to make a last determined bid to keep the brotherhood of princes united till the holy mission was fulfilled. He added that if he failed in his attempt, the peace proposals would be considered. He requested the Archbishop to lead him to the place where the council had assembled awaiting his arrival.

The princes, on account of their dislike for Richard, had decided to receive him with indifference, without paying due respects to him; but when he entered the assembly room, they were so much impressed by the royal and dignified personality of Richard that they spontaneously arose as a mark of respect for him and exclaimed in one voice, "God save king Richard of



England."

The king in his vehement speech exhorted the princes to reconcile themselves to their brother for their holy cause. He requested them to forgive him for his rough language, harsh treatment and irritating temperament. He said that he was prepared to make amends for the wrongs he might have done to any one of them. He said to Philip, "Noble brother of France, have I offended you?" The good will gesture of Richard banished the feelings of jealousy and vanity from Philip's mind. He said that he had no grudge against Richard and would wholeheartedly cooperate with him in the common causes. Richard then went straight to Leopold with an open mind and a clear heart and said, "we have complaints against each other. Let us sink our differences for our noble cause. Get the banner of England restored, and I shall admit that I had insulted, owing to my hasty nature, the flag of Austria. Let us upon a bright chapter of renewed friendship between us." The Archduke was taken by surprise. In his dilemma, he could not give an expression to his feelings. He stood in reverence and amazement. The Patriarch of Jerusalem came to his rescue. He said that by a solemn oath the Archduke had declared his innocence about the insult done to the banner of England. Richard replied, "Then I have done the Archduke the greater wrong." Saying this he returned to his seat.

Richard, then, turned to Marquis of Montserrat and the Grand Master of Templars and asked if they had any thing to say him. The former charged that Richard took the whole credit of victories on himself without sharing it with his allied soldiers. The latter accused him of maintaining superiority over other princess and it was disgraceful for them to accept the position of subordination.

The king's blood boiled at this most unjust accusation. He however, maintained the balance of his mind and said, "I shall place my forces at your disposal to be commanded by the leader you select or if you are tired of the war, leave your ten or fifteen thousand soldiers and I shall accomplish your



vow. When ancient Palestine is won on the gate shall be written, not my name but of those chiefs who supplied me their forces, the means of conquest."

This brave eloquence of Richard made the desired effect upon the wavering crusaders. The valiant king aroused their patriotism and spirit of sacrifice. They shouted aloud, "Lead us on to Jerusalem. You are accepted leader." When the soldiers heard the war slogans, they were filled with enthusiasm. The council then dispersed.

The plans of Marquis Conrade and the Grand Master of the Templars were failed by Richard's consummate skill and fine leadership. He adroitly turned the tide in his favour. He was the master of the situation.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 How did Marquis of Montserrat and the Grand Master of Templars again try their best to break up the union of the Crusading princes? How did Richard frustrate their treacherous plans?*

**Ans:—**The king of Austria and Richard of England were not on good terms on account of the flag incident for which Marquis of Montserrat was responsible. He had instigated both the kings by playing one against the other, Philip of France nursed a grudge against Richard for his superior position in the Crusade. Marquis of Montserrat and the Grand Master had further sowed the seeds of dissension among the princes. When there were no prospects of winning the war, the council considered the proposal of making peace with Saladin and to consolidate the same by marrying Edith with Saladin. The Marquis and the Grand Master were elated at their expected success in their evil selfish designs.

Archbishop of Tyre was determined to meet Richard to convert him to the view point of the members of the council. The Scottish knight, the hermit of Engaddi and the Hakim had already warned Richard against the secret treachery of the princes. He rose equal to the situation, weighed the pros and cons of the proposals in his brain, and broke the cords of the snare which was cunningly spread to catch him in. He neither accepted



nor rejected the proposals which were brought by the Archbishop of Tyre to be confirmed by him. He asked him to lead him to the place where the council had assembled. He said that he would make his lost bid to unite the princes and if he failed they might do what they liked.

In the meeting of the council Richard's behaviour was noble and magnanimous. He made an enthusiastic speech in which he made a fervent appeal, in the name of their faith, to the princes to sink their differences and get united. He offered his hand of friendship to Philip and Leopold of Austria. This made a magic effect upon the two monarchs and had no longer any complaint against Richard.

The Marquis and the Grand Master realized that their plans were being frustrated tactfully by Richard. Montserrat then arose and accused Richard of throwing the allies in the back ground by assuming an air of superiority. He did not consult them but did things in his own way. The allies would not submit themselves to such degrading position when the war could not be won without their support. The Grand Master also levelled similar charges against Richard. An angry murmur in the assembly, echoing the feelings expressed by the two speakers, made it clear to Richard that discontentment still prevailed among the princes. But Richard, the man of steel, was not to give way.

Richard resumed his speech. He offered his force to be commanded by any leader chosen by the council. But he further remarked that even then if the chiefs were tired of waging the war, he was prepared to lead their forces and the credit of winning victory would go to the princes.

The brave eloquence and supreme sacrifice of Richard made up the minds of the allies. Their patriotism was kindled with their spirit of enthusiasm. The assembly greeted Richard warmly as their leader. In this way Richard torpedoed the nefarious plans of the Marquis and the Grand Master and brought about unity among the princes again.



## CHAPTER XX

### RICHARD'S MANIFOLD OCCUPATIONS

#### Introduction:—

Having achieved a union among the crusading princes, Richard was anxious to please Berengaria who was offended because the king had rejected her request to pardon Kenneth's life. Richard also desired to understand the relations between Edith and the Scottish knight.

In return of Richard's gifts, Saladin sent to him a slave Zohauk with the hope that he might render him good service one day.

Richard received letters from England which worried him most. The peace of his dominions in England was disturbed by feuds and factions. Thinking too deeply about the state of affairs there, he became insensible.

A marabout arrived when the soldiers were chatting. They took notice of him and induced him to dance. When he was exhausted, they forced him to drink wine.

The king was disturbed in his reverie by the loud noise of the soldiers. They at once retreated to their camps, leaving the marabout stretched senseless on the ground.

#### Summary:—

(1) The king sent Sir Thomas De Vaux to summon the queen's bower woman to his presence at once. The queen was startled at the urgent and unexpected call. On an enquiry from lady Calista, the bower woman, the king knew that the flag incident was the result of Queen Berengaria's idle frolic and that Edith had no hand in it. On the contrary, she was deadly opposed to it. The king was a fond husband. He realized that it was no use crying over split milk. However, he decided to make the queen repent for her fault and then to grant her pardon. Lady Calista communicated to the queen the intentions of Richard. Armed with that knowledge, the queen prepared herself to receive Richard and face the situation.

(2) Richard was warmly welcomed by Berengaria. She did not care for the king's charges about her risky jest; on the



other hand, she levelled, against the king. the charges of apathy and unkindness, because he had refused her request to pardon Sir Kenneth. Richard made an attempt to please the queen by informing her that Kenneth's life was safe in the physician's hands. The very name of the Hakim inflamed the queen's fury, and again she complained that a heathen's request was granted, where as, that of the royal consort was rejected, Richard could no longer bear the unjust onslaught. His patience was exhausted. The king said that he could not refuse any thing to the saviour of his own life. The queen ought to have been grateful to the Hakim if she valued the king's life. She realized her folly and repented her behaviour. At last Richard ended the domestic quarrel. The king and his consort afterwards lived happily in an atmosphere of peace and amity.

(3) Richard had yet to face another encounter. He met Edith in her own room, told her that circumstances had compelled him to be severe to her. He asked Edith to pardon him for that and to be cheerful. Edith said that she could not be happy because the honour of Plantagenet had departed. The king angrily said, "What makes you say so? What is my fault?" Edith said that honour of Plantagenet had departed when a brave servant of the cross—Sir Kenneth—was placed in the hands of the heathen. The King said that his kind woman was unjust to him for the absence of her lover. In this way charges and counter charges were exchanged between them. The king put an end to the quarrel by leaving the room in bitterness and dissatisfaction.

(4) On the fourth day of Kenneth's dismissal, a messenger of Saladin arrived at Richard's court. He delivered Saladin's letter, the contents of which were as follows:—I am informed that you have chosen the path of war. I welcome the decision. I have received with thanks the gift you have sent me. In return of them, I have sent the bearer of this letter.—a Nubian slave, named Zohauk, to serve you. I wish a speedy recovery of your health."

Zohauk was a dumb Nubian christian slave. The king asked him to clean an armour and belt. Richard valued the Sultan's



gift. He made him his personal attendant.

(5) Richard received letters from England containing embarrassing and disturbing news. His dominions were being torn to pieces owing to factions. Filled with painful anxiety, Richard pondered over the state of affairs in England and became unaware of his surroundings, mean while the Nubian was cleaning the armour.

(6) A little old Turk arrived on the spot where a few soldiers on duty, were gossiping. They found that the marabout was a buffoon. They made him dance and enjoyed the fun. He was so tired that he fell down and was quite exhausted. One of the soldiers raised him a little from the ground, another touched a bottle of wine to his mouth. He turned it aside indicating his refusal to drink wine, forbidden by his faith. The soldiers induced him to take it. He drank it to the bottom and uttered with a deep sigh the words, "Allah Karim." The soldiers laughed merrily at the marabout's utterance. The king was disturbed in his deep thinking. He enquired about the matter. The soldiers were afraid of the king's wrath, They hastily retired to their tents, leaving the senseless drunk stretched motionless on the ground.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. 1 How far was Richard successful in his attempts to establish tranquility in his family ?*

**Ans:—**Read paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

*Q. 2 Explain briefly Saladin's bearing towards Richard.*

**Ans:—**Saladin was a great Sultan. He was brave, noble and broad-minded. He held Richard in high esteem for his bravery and courage. He reciprocated Richard's respect and good will for him. He sent his physician to cure Richard of his serious malady. This shows that he had no personal enmity with Richard. He was fighting to defend his faith only. He was willing to make peace with honour but when Richard decided to prosecute the war he welcomed the decision because he had full confidence in the skill and strength of his army.

He showed his gratefulness by sending Zohauk to Richard as his slave, in return of the gifts he had received from him. In



his letter, he prayed to God that Richard, by his grace, might see the truth, but if he failed to do so he was prepared for the field of battle. He prayed for Richard's speedy recovery so that he might be enabled to prosecute the war.

This shows that Saladin, like Richard, was great and magnanimous.

*Q. 3 Who was Zohauk ? Why was he selected to be the slave of Richard ?*

**Ans:—**Zohauk was a christian slave brought by Saladin from Nuba, in North Africa. He had an amusing face. He was tall and black, yet, his features were such that he did not look like a negro. Saladin sent Zohauk to Richard as a slave in return of the gifts he had received from him. The Sultan wrote to Richard that the slave should not be misjudged by his complexion. He wrote about him that he was capable of executing his master's will to his entire satisfaction and that he was clever enough to give him counsel by signs, for he was dumb. Saladin hoped that some day the slave might do him remarkable service. For the above mentioned merits, Zohauk was selected by Saladin to be sent to Richard as his gift.

*Q. 4 How did Richard's soldiers make fun of the marabout ?*

**Ans:—**Read paragraph 6.

## CHAPTER XXI

### THE MYSTERIOUS SERVICES OF THE NUBIAN

**Introduction:—**

The Turk who professed to be a buffoon, and who lay senseless, dragged himself towards Richard but the Nubian slave marked his movements with suspicion. Suddenly, he made an attempt to kill the king, but the slave saved Richard's life. The Turk was killed. Richard asked the slave if he could discover the criminal who had insulted the banner of England. The Nubian put forward his proposals in writing and the king agreed to execute them.



**Summary:—**

(1) The marabout, who pretended to be a buffon, happened to be a villain. He lay apparently senseless, but after a while, he stealthily raised his head a bit to have a look all round and dropped it again as before. The Nubian slave was polishing a shield. He observed, with alarm and suspicion, the reflection of the Turk's movements in the polished shield. He immediately prepared himself for any emergency. The marabout thought that he was not observed by any one; as the slave and Richard were sitting with their backs towards him. The marabout dragged himself nearer and nearer towards the king, with intervals, lest his speedy movements should be marked. The slave in the meanwhile, was vigilant about his movements. He suddenly leaped upon the king who was absorbed in reading letters. The Turk raised his hand up and was about to strike a deadly and fatal blow with his dagger, when his hand was interrupted by the slave's brave intervention. The Nubian received injuries on his body but he dashed the villain on the ground. Richard was surprised at the sudden fatal attempt on his life, Exclaiming, "Ha; dog!", the king struck the skull of the marabout with his stool. It proved fatal and he expired at the feet of Richard.

(2) He scolded the wardens for their negligence of duties. He turned to the Nubian to express his gratitude for saving his life and marked a wound on his body. Richard asked if there was any one among the soldiers to suck the poison from his wound and said that it might become fatal only if it mixed with the blood. It would do no harm to the lips. The sentinels wavered; none dared to come forward to obey the king's command.

To the amazement of all those who were present, the king put his lips to the wound of the slave. The slave as well as others present there remonstrated and dissuaded the king but in vain.

(3) The king was reminded of the contents of Saladin's letters in which he was informed that the Nubian was an exponent of mysteries. Richard, therefore, asked the slave if he could discover the criminal who had insulted the notional flag of Eng-



land. The king's joy knew no bounds when he nodded his head in affirmative. The king again asked how he would be able to express his thoughts to him. The slave explained by signs that he could do so by writing. Richard was elated at the hopes of success. Nubian suggested to the king in writing that all crusaders might be made to pass before him and if the criminal was one among them he would be able to point him out.

(4) To convince Richard of their fidelity to the banner of England, the princes had already decided to pass in a line before the standard of England and pay their formal homage to it. Richard thought that the criminal would certainly be one of them. Other wise by his conspicuous absence he might be suspected of the treacherous foul deed.

(5) The king saw the prospects of the success of the suggested plan. He gave his consent to the slave's proposals. Reville advised the king to refrain from doing so. He feared that the slave was attempting to break the solidarity of the crusading army. Richard did not mind his advice. He charged him to look after the slave and give him every comfort. He ordered him to bring the hermit of Engaddi to him.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *How did the Nubian slave save Richard's life ?*

Ans. Read paragraph 1.

Q. 2 *What other most valuable service was the slave capable of rendering to Richard ? Why did he accept the slave proposals ?*

Ans. Read paragraphs from three to five.

Q. 3 *How did Richard show his gratitude to the slave for saving his life ?*

Ans. Read paragraph 2.

## CHAPTER XXII

### SIR KENNETH WITH THE HAKIM

#### Introduction:—

The reader remembers that unfortunate Kenneth was banished from Richard's camp to live with the Hakim who had obtained pardon for his life. Here he wept for his ill-luck and



groaned heavily.

The following night the Hakim and his retinue made preparations for their departure and began their journey at dawn with Kenneth and the hound. The party made a brief halt at the same fountain, called the Diamond of the Desert, where Kenneth had first taken his rest with Sheerkolf, the Saracen Emir.

**Summary:—**

(1) The story reverts to the event when Sir Kenneth's death sentence was commuted to banishment at the Hakim's intervention and Kenneth was handed over to him. He had to suffer injustice and insult for no fault of his own. He was overwhelmed with grief. Reaching Adonbeek's tent, he threw himself on a bed, hid his face between his arms and wept bitterly. The Hakim was moved with pity for him. His attempts to console him did not bear any fruit as they were inopportune. He, therefore, left him alone.

(2) Kenneth could not get a wink till midnight when he saw brisk activities in the camp which were due to the preparations for departure. At about three o'clock, the master of the household awakened him and led him to the place where stood some camels which were already loaded. At a little distance from them stood a few horses ready to take them off. The Hakim arrived in a short time and mounted on one of the horses. The other one was brought for Kenneth, who followed the Hakim. He was deeply absorbed in his thoughts about the Crusaders, Christianity and Edith. Adonbec warned him to manage his horse well lest he should fall down. Kenneth was ashamed of that hint, and was thus compelled to mind his own business.

(3) Kenneth heard the wail of his dog which indicated that the faithful animal was aware of the company of his master and craving for his emancipation.

(4) In the hours of early morning, the party commenced its journey. When they had covered a little distance, they observed a mile away, European cavalry in their complete defensive armour. The Hakim and his followers suspected danger ahead. Sir Kenneth said to him that he should not be afraid of them as



they would not be any harm in the period of truce. Adonbec answered that they were the priestly soldiers of the Temple and as such were not bound by the tenets of the truce but they would be disappointed if they fought. He added that he knew the war of the desert better than they were; saying this, the physician gave a signal to his followers. They dispersed at once in different directions and were soon out of sight. The Hakim, then, held the reins of Kenneth's horse along with that of his own in his hands and made both the horses run at the fastest speed. The Hakim relaxed the speed only when they were far from being pursued by any one. He lavishly admired his excellent horses. Kenneth did not make his own comment as he wished to augment Hakim's pride.

(5) To his surprise, Kenneth discovered that by that time, they had arrived in a country which was not unknown to him. They were approaching a fountain, called the Diamond of the Desert. It was the place where Kenneth and Sheerkohf, the Emir had halted and rested when they had become friends after a bloody fight.

[6] The Hakim and Sir Kenneth made a halt at the fountain. The former spread some food on the grass and asked the latter to partake of it. The knight began to eat. El Hakim observed that Kenneth was not feeling well. He examined his pulse, mingled some drops of a life-giving medicine in a glass of water and asked him to drink it, saying that it would bring him sound sleep which he badly needed to refresh himself. The knight admired the Hakim's skill, drank water mixed with the medicine and lay down to take complete rest.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 Describe Kenneth's pangs of separation from Edith and the Crusaders.

Ans;—Read paragraphs 1 and 2.

Q. 2 Describe Kenneth's experience of the journey up to the Diamond of the Desert.

Ans;—Read the summary from paragraph 4 to the end.



## CHAPTER XXIII EL HAKIM ALIAS SHEERKOHF

### Introduction:—

In this chapter, the mystery is revealed to the reader that Adonbec, the Hakim, was none else than Sheerkohf, the Sarcen Emir. He had so perfectly disguised himself that throughout his role as Hakim he could not be recognised by Kenneth as Sheerkohf with whom after a bloody encounter, he had become friendly and in whose company he had gone to the cave of the hermit of Engaddi. Kenneth discovered this secret only when he awoke refreshed from his long sound sleep and saw the Hakim in the dress of Sheerkohf.

He asked Kenneth with the duty of carrying, in disguise, Saladin's sealed letter to Edith. The knight had to agree to do this unpleasant job when the request was made by the saviour of his life.

### Summary:—

(1) When Kenneth awoke from his sleep, to his astonishment; he discovered himself in a completely changed environment. Instead of dry grass, he lay on a couch and his dress was altogether changed. He had gone to bed which was under the palm trees, but on waking up, he found himself under a silken pavilion. Even after a bath the effects of the intoxicating drug still lingered on him and again he fell asleep but this time he was awakened by the Hakim's voice.

(2) He requested permission to enter into his pavilion. Sir Kenneth said that the master needed no permission to enter the tents of the slave. The Hakim again enquired if he did not seek for it as a master, he would allow him to get in. The knight said that the physician had free access to his patient. Adonbec said that he did not solicit the same either as a master or as a physician. Kenneth again answered that he was welcome as a friend. "yet once again," said Adonbec, "supposing that I come not as a friend?"

The Scottish knight said, "Come as thou wilt."

(3) The Hakim entered and stood before Kenneth. To his



amazed, he found that the voice was the same but the figure was that of Sheerkohf, the Sarcen Emir. He gazed at him and shut his eyes. He requested Sheerkohf to give him the dress of a slave. He advised him to continue to wear the dress of the free Eastern warrior, with the turban of the Moslem. He warned him that his native dress would put him to trouble and insult in the court of Saladin. Sir Kenneth expressed his gratitude for the Emir's generosity.

At this point, the conversation took an unhappy turn. The Emir said that the knight deserved all kindness and generosity because it was on account of his admiration for the beauty of the royal ladies whom he had made up his mind to see them with his own eyes in the guise of the Hakim. The Sarcen, then, admired the loveliness of the royal woman. Kenneth sternly said that Berengaria, the queen, was not a woman to be won but to be respected and added that Edith also deserved similar respect. The Emir answered in scorn that he would do when she would be the wife of Saladin. Kenneth could not bear the insult done to her lady love. He angrily demanded of the Sarcen to put an end to the conversation.

The Emir deviating from the bitter controversy said that he could show him the way to discover the man who had insulted the flag. The knight said that he was willing to be guided by him if he was required to do nothing against his loyalty and christian faith. Sheerkohf said that the hound might discover the criminal. The idea was approved by the knight but he expressed the fear that if he went to Richard's camp, he might be discovered by his voice and appearance, and in that case the purpose with which he would go there would be defeated. The Emir assured him that he would be so disguised that none would be able to detect him. Sir Kenneth agreed to under-take the mission. The Emir informed Kenneth that he would give his whole hearted support if he agreed to carry Saladin's letter to Edith. Again, Kenneth experienced a painful surprise at the Sarcen's proposal. He pondered over it solemnly and said that he could do so only as a messenger but not as a mediator in strange love suit of the



Sultan. The Emir said that beyond that, he did not himself expect him to do any thing else from him. The Emir conducted him to his tent where he began his speedy preparation to despatch Kenneth in disguise

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q. 1** *What discoveries were made by Kenneth when he woke up from his long profound sleep?*

**Ans:—**On waking up, Kenneth found that instead of damp grass, he lay on a couch. His own clothes were substituted for a night dress of finest linen. Formerly he had slept under the shade of palm trees but now he lay under a silken pavilion. When he made a search for his own clothes, they were to be found nowhere but, instead of them, he saw, near him, a rich Saracen dress and a sabre, which, he thought, were meant for him.

The Hakim obtained his permission to enter his tent and stood before him. Sir Kenneth to his great surprise, discovered him to be Sheerkohf, the Saracen Emir. From conversation he gathered that Emir had gone to Richard's court in the guise of a Hakim with the object of seeing the royal ladies. Kenneth recollected that during the course of his conversation with the Emir at the time of their first meeting in the desert, he had admired the valour and beauty of the royal ladies. The Emir was charmed by that account and had taken recourse to that astounding trick to see the women with his own eyes.

Kenneth was shocked to know from the Emir that the fame of Edith's unsurpassed beauty had reached Saladin's ears and he had fallen in love with her; Kenneth knew those secret mysteries.

**Q. 2** *Why did Kenneth agree to deliver Saladin's letter to Edith when she was his own lady love?*

**Ans:—**The Saracen knight assured Kenneth that the letter was written in all honour and respect for Edith. He also agreed to Kenneth's condition that he would do the job only as an honest messenger but not as a mediator of Saladin in his love suit. He also gave him the temptation that he would help him in finding out the man who had insulted the banner of England.



Kenneth thought that there was no reason why he should not avail himself of the opportunity to restore England's honour and to get the offender punished; besides this, he thought that he was taking that step in the interest of England as a faithful lover and a true patriot. He also saw the prospects of proving to Richard that he had unjustly suffered at his hands and that he was not a traitor but a true patriot.

For these reasons he agreed to serve as Saladin's messenger.

## CHAPTER XXIV DETECTION OF THE TRAITOR

### Introduction:—

The reader can now very well guess that the Nubian slave was none else than Kenneth in disguise. All the princes and soldiers passed by the flag and made a signal of courtesy to the flag. Richard and Nubian slave, with his dog, stood on the summit of Saint George's mount awaiting the detection of the thief. As soon as Marquis of Montserrat came to pay his homage, Roswal, the hound, leaped upon him and caught hold of his throat, indicating that he was the criminal.

The council decided that Conrade must accept his trial by means of a combat on neutral ground.

### Summary;—

(1) Now there can be no doubt that the Nubian slave was Kenneth himself in disguise. The banner of England flew on the summit of Saint George's mount. Richard, the royal ladies, the Nubian slave and his hound stood near by. The troops of the princes passed one after the other showing a signal of respect to the flag.

(2) When Philip's turn came, Richard looked at him with an eye of suspicion. The Nubian slave kept quiet and the dog did not move a bit from his place. Richard doubted whether the slave would succeed in his undertaking. Philip returned and was followed by the Grand Master, who, instead of paying military respect to Richard, gave his blessings as a priest. The king only marked this behaviour but said not a word. He allowed him to



pass undisturbed. The Duke of Austria was, then, seen approaching. The king warned the slave to be cautious and watchful because Richard had strong reasons to suspect him. He asked the Nubian to let his hound have a full view of the Duke. Neither the slave nor the dog did make any sign to doubt him as the enemy of England. Richard lost his patience and with great anger and annoyance said to the slave that he had no hope of their success.

(3) The troops of the Marquis of Montserrat, by this time, passed before the king of England. Conrad of Montserrat, mounted on a horse, was seen approaching nearer the king who went a step forward to meet him. Meanwhile, the hound made a furious yell and sprang forward. The Nubian, at this indication, at once released him. Roswal leapt upon Conrad's horse, and seizing his neck, pulled him down. The rider fell down on the ground. The Nubian declared that the hound had detected the right person. The dog was brought back to his post with great difficulty. The supporters of Conrad rushed to the spot, greatly excited, raised him up and cried "Cut the slave and his hound to pieces."

[4] Richard was heard to say, "Thou traitor, I charge thee of treason." The Grand Master who was secretly in league with Conrad in his successive acts of treachery, came to his aid. He said, "Are the princes of the crusade turned hares or deer that a hound should be let loose upon them?" Philip of France also lent his support by saying that it was a fatal mistake. Richard was firm in his accusation. Conrad said that he had never touched the flag. Richard took him at his word. He said that his guilt was proved by his own confession which was made even before the charge was declared. Richard asked how Conrad could deny that he had touched the banner unless he knew that the charge was about the flag. By this time the atmosphere had become tense. To avoid an immediate civil war, Philip proposed that the matter should be put before the Council for consideration and decision. Richard had no objection to it.

(5) The Council met at the scheduled time. The Arch Duke of Austria and the Grand Master took their seats by the side of



Conrade, showing, there by, that they supported his cause. Richard was not influenced by it. He firmly accused Conrade with having stolen the banner of England and wounded the faithful dog, Canrade expressed his innocence in the matter. Philip argued that the words of a knight must certainly be trusted instead of the signs of a cur. Richard defended himself by quoting an instance from the history of France when a charge of murder was decided by a duel between the man and the dog. The animal was victorious, the charge was confessed and the man punished. Philip admitted that it had so happened in the past. He advised that taking recourse to that device was unsound and disgraceful. Richard threw his glove as a challenge to Conrade and said that he must accept a duel to prove his innocence. The Council would not allow Richard to put his life to risk because he was their champion but they agreed to Richard's proposal that he might be allowed to be represented on the battle field by his own chosen champion. Conrade accepted the duel. The Council fixed for it the fifth day. The combat was to be fought on neutral ground. The Council authorized Richard to obtain permission from Saladin to allow the trial by means of a battle on his neutral ground.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *Why was accused of treachery and theft ? How was he detected and yet supported by his colleagues ?*

Ans:—Read paragraphs from 1 to 4.

Q. 2 *Why was the council meeting called ? What was finally decided by it ?*

Ans:—Read paragraph fifth.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### THE NUBIAN MEETS EDITH

#### Introduction:—

The Nubian was commanded to be present before the king. He asked him if he could fight as his champion in the duel. The slave nodded his head in joyful assent. He ordered him to go to Saladin with his letter of request to appoint neutral ground for



the deed of chivalry Richard was pleased with the commendable services of the Nubian. He allowed him to meet Edith and deliver Saladin's message. At the first sight, Edith recognized Kenneth in the guise of the Nubian slave. She read Saladin's letter of love-suit, tore it to pieces, crushed them under her foot and asked the Nubian to communicate to Saladin what he had seen.

**Summary:—**

(1) The Nubian was commanded to be present before the king. He made his obeisance and stood awaiting his orders. He entrusted him with the duty of carrying a letter to Saladin in which he was requested to appoint neutral ground for the duel and was also cordially invited to grace the occasion by his royal presence.

(2) Richard merrily asked the Nubian if he was prepared to represent himself as his champion in the combat. The slave nodded his head in joyful assent. The king was pleased with successive commendable services of the slave and allowed him to meet, as he had desired, Lady Edith to deliver Saladin's message to her. Hearing Edith's name, the mute made an unsuccessful attempt to utter as was evident from the movement of his lips. The king said that when the name of Lady Edith could inspire him to speak, her beauty was certainly powerful enough to restore him his speech. Richard advised him to keep quiet even if, by Edith's miraculous power, he could feel like speaking. The Nubian put his finger on his lip indicating that he would keep quiet.

(3) Richard summoned his Chamberlain, Neville, and asked him to lead the slave to Edith. In the way the Nubian thought that he was probably discovered by the king. His commands to keep quiet made him think so. He decided to obey the king. By this time, he reached the entrance of the Queen's pavilion,

[4] The chamberlain communicated to Berengaria the king's desire and the object of the slave's mission. The queen laughed at the errand of the negro slave who was permitted to go to Edith's apartment. The Nubian knelt before her in reverence. Edith put the lamp beside her in such a way that the shadow of



the slave's face fell on the curtain. Observing it, she at once recognized that the person was undoubtedly Kenneth. She said in a deep sorrowful voice, 'Is it you? Is it indeed you, brave knight of the Leopard?' Listening to the voice of Edith, the knight could hardly resist the temptation to give a reply. He recollected the king's commands and his own determination to obey him. He replied to her only with a deep sigh. Edith said that she had marked him and his hound on Saint George's Mount. She added that she was anxious to help the knight in his adversity as he had unjustly suffered on her account. Kenneth was still silent. She again enquired if he was silent on account of fear, and shame and said that there was no cause for either. Edith was displeased with the prolonged silence of Kenneth. She stepped back as if she was displeased. She enquired if really the enemy had deprived him of his tongue. When she did not get a reply, she was very much disgusted. She asked him to do his errand. The knight presented to her Saladin's letter covered with fine silk and cloth of gold. She took the letter, put it aside and again asked Kenneth if he had to say any thing about his mission. When no reply came forward, she was deeply agitated and covered her eyes with both her hands. When Kenneth moved forward to sympathize with her, she asked him to get back. She read Saladin's letter, tore it to pieces, crushed them by her foot in contempt and asked the knight to explain to Saladin what he had seen with his own eyes. That was her reply to Saladin's love-suit. Edith accused Kenneth of being a worthless renegade to religion chivalry and to his lady and left the room.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q. 1** *What other services was the Nubian slave prepared to do for the king? Why did he allow him to meet Edith?*

**Ans:—**Read paragraphs first and second.

**Q. 2** *Briefly describe the interview of the Nubian slave with Lady Edith.*

**Ans:—**Read paragraph four.



## CHAPTER XXVI THE CELEBRATED MINSTREL

### Introduction:—

Blondel, a celebrated minstrel, came to pay his homage to Richard. He greeted him with great pleasure, for he was very much fond of his music. The royal ladies were invited to enjoy the display of his fine art. Every one admired his performance. The king and the ladies showered their choicest gifts on Blondel.

At the end of the function, while Edith was returning to her pavilion, Richard walked beside his kinswoman and asked if she agreed to Saladin's proposal. Edith gave her flat refusal which was communicated to Saladin.

### Summary:—

[1] Sir Thomas De Vaux informed Richard that the distinguished minstrel, Blondel, was waiting to have an audience with him. He was at once welcomed warmly by the king. He pressed him to his bosom and kissed him on either side of the face. He enquired of him about the news of Cyprus and expressed his eagerness to hear his music, if he was not tired. Blondel answered that his voice was ever ready at the service of the king. He sent for the queen, his kinswoman, Edith, and other ladies to enjoy the music.

[2] The Nubian slave returned from his mission by this time. Sir Thomas De Vaux placed before the king for his observation and guidance, the battle plans. When they had just finished their consideration of them, the messenger informed that the queen and her party had arrived. Edith and Berengaria welcomed the musician warmly. Edith happened to see the Nubian slave among the audience and was so much agitated that she sunk upon a seat as if she was in a swoon. By water and other essences she was brought back to her senses.

[3] The minstrel, then, began his performance. To the accompaniment of his harp he chanted an adventure of love and knight-hood which won the public attention. The king presented his valuable ring to the minstrel, The Queen and others followed the king's example.



[4] At the end of the performance, while Edith was returning to her apartment, the king walked by her side and enquired of her if she agreed to Saladin's proposal of marriage. He said that the princes had again become indifferent to him on account of his accusations against Conrad. The king added that there were no chances of winning the war, so Edith could help him if she so desired. Edith said that she would prefer death to degradation and dishonour by marrying Saladin. Richard returned to send Edith's reply to Saladin. He charged the Nubian slave to go to Saladin with his despatches on the next day.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *What do you know about Blondel and his skilful performance before Richard ?*

Ans:—Read paragraphs 1 and 3.

## CHAPTER XXVII THE BIGGEST WONDER

### Introduction:—

Saladin allotted the place called the Diamond of the Desert for the combat and promised to be present on the occasion. A day before the appointed date, Richard and Saladin met for the first time at the appointed place. After a brief exchange of views each one of them gave a display of his feat of bravery. When Saladin exchanged his turban for a Tartar cap, Richard and his attendants, discovered to their greatest amazement, the biggest of mysteries. Then found that Saladin himself had played the miraculous part of the Hakim ! Saladin took leave of Richard to meet the Duke of Austria.

### Summary:—

[1] Philip of France informed Richard that he had decided to return to his kingdom as he had no hope of success in their mission owing to the discord among the princes and the reduction of the armies. In spite of Richard's best efforts and persuasions, he could not be made to give up his idea. The Duke of Austria and several other princes also announced their similar opinion. Richard was shocked to note that the princes were de-



starting the holy cause in an hour of trial.

[2] The attention of Richard was diverted by the arrival of Saladin's ambassador. Saladin had appointed the place called the Diamond of the Desert for the combat and promised that he would witness it.

[3] It was agreed by both the parties that they would bring a limited number of armed followers on the battle field and the rest would come to witness the contest without arms. These precautions were taken to avoid a civil war.

[4] A day before the appointed date, Conrade and Richard set off to the Diamond of the Desert where they saw a wonderful sight. It was a small town of camp on which were hoisting beautiful embroidered flags. It was an encampment of Saladin and his attendants.

[5] Richard became aware of the fact that Saladin, surrounded by his chosen officers, was advancing towards him. Both the monarchs alighted from their horses and embraced each other as brothers and equals. Saladin was the first to break silence. After a brief conversation on the spot, both the monarchs retired to a pavilion. The royal ladies were accommodated in a separate tent. Saladin was astonished to see Richard's long sword which extended from the shoulder to the heel and expressed his wish to see Richard strike one blow with it. The king of England looked round to find out some object on which he could try his strength. On a block of wood he placed a steel mace the handle of which was about an inch and a half in diameter. Richard brandished his sword round his head thrice with lightning speed and gave a blow to the handle with such a terrific force that the iron bar was cut into two pieces. Saladin was amazed to see the display of Richard's mighty strength and congratulated him on his brilliant achievement. Sir Thomas De Vaux remarked that they were eager to see a similar feat of Saladin. Richard asked him to be silent lest his desire might be considered as a challenge to Saladin. He promised to show his own skill. He put a cushion of silk upright on the floor and asked Richard if his sword could cut it. He said that it could not be done as it was too soft to be



cut to pieces. Saladin took his scimitar sword and drew it across the cushion so dexterously without any effort that it seemed to fall than to be cut to two parts. Richard complimented Saladin on his marvellous feat and said that he was as expert in inflicting wound as the Hakim was clever in curing them.

(6) Saladin, at this time, exchanged his turban for a traitor cap. As soon as he did so, they were astonished to see that the person was the same Hakim who had saved Richard's life. They discovered the greatest secret that Saladin himself had played the Hakim's part. Richard exclaimed "A miracle! a miracle!" Richard now realized that Kenneth was also saved by his intervention and due to his art he could also be disguised as the Nubian slave. Saladin informed Richard that the Nubian i. e. Kenneth was fully prepared for the combats. Richard said, 'Does he know that the Sultan was disguised as the Hakim.' Saladin said that he had to disclose his identity when he had made open the fact that he was in love with Edith. Saladin admitted that Kenneth's love for Edith was supreme and hence he had resigned his own in his favour. He took leave of Richard for he had to meet the Duke of Austria and left the pavilion.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *Why did Richard fail to maintain solidarity among the crusading princes?*

Ans:—The princes had accepted Richard's leadership but they grudged his superior position. Philip of France considered him as his rival in European politics. Leopold of Austria suffered from the feeling of inferiority complex. He envied that in the event of victory Richard would be loved and honoured by Christendom while his own services would be insignificant before Richard's. Conrad of Montserrat and the Grand Master of Templars succeeded in their conspiracy, to sow the seeds of dissensions among the princes. Their plans were temporarily thwarted by Richard's magnanimity and fine leadership. There were prospects of success the unity was achieved by Richard's self sacrifice and sincerity of the army but it was soon broken. Conrad was detected to be the thief and was held responsible for the flag



incident on Saint George's Mount. Under these circumstances Richard could not keep the princes united up to the end.

**Q. 2** *Describe the first meeting of the two monarchs and the feats of bravery displayed by them.*

**Ans:—**Read paragraphs 4 to 6.

**Q. 3** *Why were Richard and his attendants greatly astonished?*

**Ans:—**Read paragraph 6.

## CHAPTER XXVIII THE ROYAL WEDDING

**Introduction:—**

Conrade of Montserrat was seriously wounded by Kenneth in the combat and accepted defeat. As he promised to make confessions his life was spared. To keep his villainy a sealed secret, the Grand Master murdered Conrade. Saladin killed the Marquis for his treachery.

It was discovered that Kenneth was the Earl of Huntingdon, prince Royal of Scotland! He was espoused by Edith Plantagenet.

**Summary:—**

(1) The beating of the trumpets announced the hour of the combat. The Diamond of the Desert was thronged with spectators and sympathisers. The Scottish knight looked cheerful and confident but the brow of Conrade was marked with despondence. The king, the ladies and Saladin had taken their respective seats. The two knights took their solemn oath. When the herald proclaimed Kenneth's name as Richard's champion, a loud and cheerful acclaim burst from the followers of the king. Silence reigned supreme within a minute. A signal was given and the two warriors pruned themselves in a deadly combat. Conrade made the first charge by which he broke Kenneth's shield. Kenneth's horse fell on his haunches but he managed to raise him with hand and rein. The assault of Kenneth in return was most formidable. His lance pierced through Conrade's shield, and coal of linked mail and penetrated deep into his bosom rendering the knight quite helpless to oppose his antagonist. Richard, Saladin



and the heralds crowded round the wounded warrior and asked him to confess his sin. He said that God had justly decided the battle and added that there were worst traitors in the camp of Christendom. Richard requested Saladin to use Talisman to save his life so that other villains might be discovered by Conrade's confession. Saladin ordered the servants to carry Conrade to his tent where he might be treated. The Grand Master refused to put his man in the charge of Saladin. He suggested that he might be treated in his own camp. Conrade was accordingly conducted to the Grand Master's tent.

(2) Trumpets were sounded in honour of Richard's champion. He was greeted and applauded by his followers. It was decided that the victorious knight should be honourably received in the queen's pavilion. His entry was announced by Blondel's charming music. Kenneth knelt respectfully before the queen. Edith sat on the right of Berengaria. Richard asked the royal ladies to unarm the knight. They welcomed this pleasant duty. After the removal of his armour and other articles from his body it was marked that Kenneth's face was shining with joy. Richard announced that the brave knight was neither the Ethiopian, nor Kenneth but Earl of Huntingdon, Prince royal of Scotland! There was general expression of surprise and Edith dropped from her hand the helmet of the knight. Berengaria enquired from Richard how he came to know the secret. He said that he had received letters from England in which he was informed that his three nobles were arrested by the king of Scotland under accusation that his hair was in his camp. The king added that, since the receipt of letters, he suspected Kenneth to be the prince of Scotland but his doubts were only lately removed by Sir Thomas De Vaux who got this definite information from Huntingdon's attendant. The assembly was then engaged in pleasant conversation.

(3) Preparations, in Saladin's camp, were in full swing to receive Richard and the royal party at the banquet at which they were invited. Nectabanus rushed into Richard's tent, greatly agitated and said to Saladin, "Accipe hoc!" The Sultan could



not make out any thing. The slave was panic stricken. He led Saladin aside in a room and communicated to him a secret message.

(4) Richard and his party arrived at Saladin's pavilion. He welcomed them. The guests were served with oriental iced sherbet. The Earl of Huntingdon said that it was most delicious. A glass of the drink was handed over to the Grand Master of the Templars. Saladin made a sign to the dwarf and uttered aloud the word, "Accipe hoc." Hearing it, the Grand Master was startled. When his lips were about to touch the sherbet, Saladin's sword cut his head which rolled down on the floor ! The assembly was bewildered at the ghastly deed and suspected treason on the part of Saladin who was still calm and undisturbed even after the murder. Richard and his followers lay their hands on their sword in readiness to meet the emergency. Saladin asked Richard to fear nothing. He enumerated the Grand Master's acts, of treachery which were surpassed by Conrade's cold blooded murder at his hands. Richard was astonished to hear that Conrade was murdered by his own associate the Grand Master. He asked Saladin what evidence he had in testimony of the charge and the consequent fatal punishment. Saladin narrated the events which were related by Nectabanus to him as an eye witness. Saladin explained that the Grand Master had murdered Conrade for fear of his confessions by which his acts of treason might have been exposed. He added that the Templar plunged his dagger into the bosom of the wounded Conrade, disregarding his humble request to spare his life. The dwarf had remembered the words "Accipe hoc" saying which he had committed the foul deed. Richard asked Saladin why he had punished the Grand Master with his own hands in their presence. He answered that if he had done so after he had sipped the liquid he would have been accused of inhospitality. Saladin ordered that the dead body should be removed from the floor.

(5) Saladin requested his royal guests to resume their seats at the banquet. Richard made Saladin aware of the fact that the Scottish knight was Earl of Huntingdon, prince royal of



Scotland. Saladin recollected his first encounter with him near the fountain at the Diamond of the Desert and congratulated him on his brave feat. The Knight admired Saladin for his superior skill. At this stage, the theme of the conversation took a different turn when Richard proposed to Saladin that the question of the possession of Jerusalem, the bone of contention between them, be decided by a combat between them in the capacity of the champions of their respective faiths. Saladin declined to accept Richard's challenge on the plea that he held Jerusalem not by his personal labour but by the mighty strength of his army. Richard then proposed an encounter for love of honour. Saladin was not prepared for that too as he had no heir to his throne and in the absence of the leader the army scatters.

(6) The assembly arose to depart Saladin advanced and took Richard by the hand. He said that the holy city of Jerusalem would be helped by him but he would gladly accept all other terms which would be proposed by him.

(7) Richard returned to his own camp. Then the young Earl of Huntingdon was espoused by Edith Plantagenet. Saladin sent, on this occasion 'Talisman' as his present.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 1 *Imagining yourself to be a spectator, describe, in brief, the combat.*

Ans.—Read paragraph one.

Q. 2 *How was Kenneth honoured at his glorious victory? What most wonderful secret was disclosed about him?*

Ans.—Read paragraph 2 and 3.

Q. 3 *Who murdered Conrade? How was the crime detected and the criminal punished?*

Ans.—Read paragraph 4.





## WHO IS WHO IN THE NOVEL

### RICHARD

(1) **Richard:**—He is one of the principal characters of the novel. He is the head of the crusaders who march for the recovery of Jerusalem. During the period of truce, he falls a prey to a fatal disease, but he never loses courage even for a moment. Owing to his serious sickness, he is handicapped in his efforts to make preparations for the war. The idea of his inability constantly agonises him. This shows that he is a true patriot. He cannot bear an insult done to the flag of England so he takes Leopold and Conrade to task. The Duke of Austria and Philip of France are his rivals in European politics. They are envious of his fine leadership and superior position but Richard rises to the occasion, brings about union among quarreling princes by his spirit of self sacrifice and magnanimity. He promises to obey the commands of that new leader who is selected as the head of the crusading army. It makes a magic effect upon the allies. They give up their differences and prepare to fight under the banner of England. He rejects the council's proposal to end the war by means of a peaceful settlement with the Sultan of Egypt. He also puts down the suggestion of cementing the proposed alliance by marrying his kinswoman Edith to Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt. He cannot accept such degrading proposal. He prefers death to dishonour. When all the top ranking rulers desert the holy cause, inspite of the persuasion of Richard to resume the fight, he is reluctantly compelled to return leaving his mission unfulfilled. He is however able to secure from Saladin the guarantee that christians going on pilgrimage to Jerusalem would be exempted from paying taxes to the Mohammedans.

### KENNETH

(2) **Kenneth:**—Kenneth of Scotland is the heir-apparent of the Scottish king William. He is sent to the hermit of Engaddi as the messenger of the council of princes. In the course of his journey, he meets, a Saracen knight, Sheerkohf, at the fountain called the Diamond of the Desert. He becomes friendly with



him after a deadly contest At the Convent of Engaddi, he sees a wonderfull vision. A procession of christian maidens enters in to the Chapel. One of the maiden drops rose buds on his foot. She is Edith. She does so in token of her love for the knight. The vision ends. Kenneth comes to the hermit with the council's proposal of ending the war by marrying Edith to Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt. The proposal is communicated to the monarch and Richard is kept in darkness about it. Richard falls seriously ill, Kenneth comes with Saladin's personal physician who is to treat the king. Richard recovers. He orders Kenneth to guard the flag of England in the night on Saint George's Mount. Queen Berengaria indulges herself in an idle joke with Kenneth on account of his love for Edith. She sends Nectabanus to Kenneth. He tells him that he is urgently called by Edith. Kenneth is caught in the trap. He is tempted to leave the flag ungarded and meets Edith. He returns to find that his dog Roswel is seriously wounded and the flag is removed. Richard condemns him to death but El Hakim obtains pardon for his life from Richard. He goes with his new master El Hakim as his slave. He is astonished to find that the Hakim is really Saladin himself. He is also shocked to know that Saladin loves Edith. He is compelled to carry Saladin's love letter to her. He is disguised as a Nubian slave to do the Sultan's work. He goes to Richard's court with the help of his dog, he finds out the person who had removed the banner of England. He defeats the traitor Conrade in the combat in the capacity of Richard's champion. He is honoured by Richard and the ladies of his court for his victory. Saladin's letter is delivered to Edith. She tears it to pieces. Saladin realizes that Kenneth deserves Edith's love. He does not wish to come in the way. Edith is married with Kenneth.

### SALADIN

(3) Saladin:—He is the Sultan of Syria and Egypt. He is the defender of his faith. He meets Kenneth for the first time at the fountain called the Diamond of the Desert in the guise of the Saracen Emir Sheerkohf. He listens to Kenneth's praise of the beauty of European women and especially that of the royal



ladies of Richard's camp. He is tempted to see them with his own eyes. Saladin comes to Richard's camp in the disguise of El Hakim. He uses his wonderful medicine Talisman and cures Richard of his slow wasting fever. He obtain from Richard pardon for Kenneth's life. He returns to his country. On the way he reveals his identity to Kenneth. He sends him back to Richard's camp as a Nubian slave and asks him to deliver his letter to Edith. Saladin loves and honours his bravery, courage and patriotism. He is prepared to grant all concessions to christian pilgrims to Jerusalem if Richard makes such proposals, but as he is the leader of the followers of his faith, he cannot make any compromise on the issue of handing over Jerusalem to the christians. When Richard requests him to fix ground for him between his champion and Conrade, he accepts the invitation and observes the duel. He invites king Richard and the members of his party at a banquet. He meets him as a brother king. He is informed by Nectabanus that Conrade was murdered by the Grand Master. He kills the Grand Master in the presence of Richard and explains his reasons for committing the ghastly act. He sacrifices his love for Edith in favour of Kenneth because he realizes that he justly deserves it.

#### EDITH

(4) Edith Plantagenet:—She is the royal kinswoman of Richard I of England. She loves Kenneth of Scotland. She drops rose, buds on his foot in the chapel of Engaddi while he is offering his prayers. She is recognized by Sir Kenneth. She is not a party to Queen Berengaria's idle frolic. She knows that attempts are being made by the queen to call Kenneth in her name but she never desires that he should be tempted to give up his duty of guarding in the night the banner of England. When Kenneth meets her in the Queen's pavilion, she asks him to return at once without wasting a minute. When the sad news, that Kenneth is condemned to death for bringing dishonour to England, is communicated to her, she runs to Berengaria and requests her to use her good offices in saving the life of the innocent knight. She accompanies Queen Berengaria when she goes to the Richard. The king of England honours her more than the queen on acc-



ment of her courage and outspokenness. When Kenneth comes to her as a Nubian, slave and deliver Saladin's love letter to her, she recognizes him at the first sight. She feels pity for his sad plight. She tries her best to make him speak but he continues to keep quiet and does not answer her repeated queries. He does not even thank her for anxious enquiries about him. She gets annoyed with Kenneth for his silence. She reads Saladin's letter and tears it to pieces. She asks Kenneth to inform Saladin about what she does of the letter. She also rejects Richard's request to agree to the council's proposal of her marriage with Saladin. When she knows that the champion of Richard, who wins the combat against Conrade, is not the Nubian slave, but Kenneth, her joy knows no bounds. She is all the more pleased when it is revealed to her that Kenneth is David, Earl of Huntingdon, Prince Royal of Scotland. She is married with Kenneth.

### BERENGARIA

(5) Berengaria:—She is the queen of England; wife of Richard I. She is very much perturbed on account of the serious sickness of her husband. She goes on pilgrimage to the convent of Engaddi where she prays for Richard's long life and speedy recovery. A maid servant tells her about Edith's love with Kenneth. She makes a risky idle joke with Kenneth. She does not mean any harm to the knight, but its consequences are grave. She calls Kenneth in the name of Edith. He is entrusted with the duty of guarding the banner of England. He goes to meet his lady love, mean while, the flag is removed. Kenneth is condemned to death for his fault. Queen Berengaria realizes her responsibility in the matter. She repents for her idle joke. She does not succeed in getting from the king pardon for Kenneth's life but when El Hakim saves his life, she is deeply hurt because Richard honoured the physician more than his wife. When Richard comes to her, of his own accord, and tries to please her, she pretends to be angry with him. Richard explains to her that the physician had saved his life. She should not grudge the special favours bestowed upon him by the king in return of his services. She realizes her error and her anger vanishes. She loves Richard



more than her life. She helps him throughout in all his enterprise. She is his real partner and true guide. She is loved and honoured by Richard. She is generous and broad minded. When Richard pays more respects to Edith, she never envies the king's favourable inclinations towards his kinswoman.

### SIR THOMAS DE VAUX

(6) Sir Thomas De Vaux:—He is a trusty born of Gilsland. He is faithful to king Richard and is devoutly attached to his person. When Richard is sick, none dare to assume the necessary authority to do justice to him but Sir Thomas De Vaux alone maintains control over him. He regards his sovereign's life and honour more than his own life. He persuades him to strictly follow the physician's instructions. Many times, king Richard on account of his rash and haughty temperament, becomes wild with rage on account of the objections raised by Sir Thomas against his will but he remains unperturbed. The care of his king's life is uppermost in his mind. When Saladin sends his own personal physician to treat Richard, he does not allow him to the king unless he is fully satisfied with the effect of his medicines on others. He is convinced himself of the physician's honesty. He then allows Richard to receive treatment from him. He stands by his side when the medicine is administered to Richard. He is prejudiced against the Scottish knight Sir Kenneth. He asks him why he had gone to the convent of Engaddi. When the knight refuses to disclose to him the object of his mission, he gets angry with him. Conrad of Montserrat informs Richard that Leopold has fixed the Austrian banner by the side of the flag of England. Richard rushes on the spot. Sir Thomas De Vaux quickly follows the king and takes care to avoid any catastrophe. Sir Thomas De Vaux serves Richard most faithfully and valiantly during the third crusade.

### PHILIP OF FRANCE

(7) Philip of France:—He half-heartedly joins the third Crusade which makes a march for the recovery of Jerusalem. He is Richard's rival in European politics. The discord between Philip and Richard creates disputes and obstacles which impede



concerted measures against Saladin. Philip is a shrewd politician. Behind the curtain, he always plays his part against Richard. Leopold of Austria proposes to refer his dispute with Richard to the General Council of the Crusade. Philip welcomes the proposal but when Richard does not agree to it, the king of France quickly and quietly retires from the spot. Conrad of Montserrat is declared by Richard a traitor but Philip of France maintains that the detection by a dog is a fatal mistake. He proposes that the issue should be decided by the council. Richard accepts the suggestion. In the council meeting, Philip pleads in favour of Conrad. He requests Richard to recall his accusation against Conrad. He is determined to get the charge decided by means of a combat. Philip appoints the fifth day for the trial. He does not see the prospects of success in the war. The forces of the crusading army diminish day by day. The strength of the army is further undermined by discord among the princes. Philip of France decides to return to Europe and communicates his positive intention to Richard who in vain tries to detain him.

### LEOPOLD DUKE OF AUSTRIA

(8) Leopold Duke of Austria:—The Duke has joined the Crusade but he also nurses a grudge against Richard. The Marquis of Montserrat instigates him against Richard. He is so much enraged that he is about to tear the flag of England to pieces but his counsellors prevent him from doing so. Against the law of the Crusade, he fixes the banner of Austria beside that of England. This leads to a serious discord between him and Richard. He suspects that Leopold had removed the flag of England from St. George's Mount. He is offended at this unjust accusation. In the council meeting, king Richard requests him to sink the differences between them for their holy common cause but Leopold does not make any response to the good will gesture. He follows the footsteps of king Philip of France in deserting the holy cause of conquering Jerusalem. He sends a manifesto to Richard announcing his decision to return to Europe.

### CONRAD OF MONTSEERAT

(9) Conrad of Montseerat:—is a handsome man of middle age. He comes as the representative of the Council of the Crusaders to enquire about the health of Richard. He informs the king about the Council's advice that he should not allow the physi-



cian of Saladin to temper with his health. He is asked by Richard to wait outside his pavilion. Conrade thinks that if Jerusalem is conquered by Richard he would not allow his marquissate to retain its independence. He also feels that if Saladin wins the war he will be able to secure all privileges from him and would be able to maintain his freedom. He conspires with the Grand Master of the Templars to break the solidarity of Crusading army. Conrade succeeds in making Richard hostile to Leopold Duke of Austria. He pays an active secret part in ending the war by marrying Edith with Saladin. He convinces the council of the utility to try peaceful means of a respectable settlement. But his plans are thwarted by Richard's spirit of sacrifice. Conrade then tries other means to break the union achieved by Richard. He steals in the night the flag of England. Richard suspects Leopold as traitor. Conrade is recognized by Kenneth's dog Roswel. Richard accuses Conrade of treason. The council decides that the issue should be settled by means of a duel. Conrade is mortally wounded in the contest and confesses all his guilt. He is killed by his companion, the Grand Master, because he promises to admit all other treasonable acts; if his life is spread.

### THE GRAND MASTER OF THE TEMPLARS

(10) The Grand Master of the Templars is the chief officer of the knight of the Templars. It is a religious military order for protection of pilgrims to the holy land, like Conrade, he thinks that if Richard succeeds in the war importance of his military order would be ended. He is the accomplice of Conrade in all his treasonable acts against Richard. When Conrade is wounded in the combat he promises to confess all his acts of treachery if his life is saved. The Grand Master is afraid of being discovered as Conrade's help mate in all his evil deeds. He tries to keep them secret lest he might be put to death by Richard. He secretly enters the camp where Conrade is lying seriously wounded. Uttering the words, "Accipe hoc!" he stabs him and puts his life to an end. He is observed by Nectabanus while he commits the cold blooded murder. He communicates the grave news to Saladin. He kills the Grand Master in the presence of Richard.

### NECTABANUS

(11) Nectabanus—He is a dwarf with a large head. He is



ugly, frightful and peculiarly dressed. He appears before Kenneth and the chapel of Engaddi with a broom in his hand. Kenneth is surprised at his sudden unexpected arrival. He is disgusted of his ugly appearance. He is sent by Queen Berengaria to put Kenneth in an embarrassing situation. The knight commands him to go away at once. He obeys the orders and goes out of his sight. Nectabanus is again sent by Berengaria with a message to Kenneth. He puts Edith's ruby ring on his palm and tells him that he is called by Edith. He returns to the queen's camp with Kenneth. Richard sends Nectabanus to Saladin so that he might serve him as his slave. He happened to see the Grand Master murdering Conrade. He reports the matter to his new master Saladin. He remembers the words "Accipe hoc !" uttering which the Grand Master kills Conrade. He tells Richard what he has seen with his own eyes.

### BLONDEL

(12) Blondel is the celebrated minstrel. He is favoured by Richard I. He admires the skill of this musician. He entertains Richard, Berengaria, Edith and the knights by marvellous performances. To the accompaniment of his harp, he chants one of the adventures of love and knight hood. The admirers appreciate his sweet song. The king, the queen and others honour him by presenting him with rewards. Kenneth wins the combat against Conrade. He is hailed as a victor. Blondel welcomes him by his musical performance.

### The Hermit of Engaddi

(13) The Hermit of Engaddi—He is really Alberic Mortemar, the descendent of Royal Lusignan and of the brave Godfrey who were the heroes of Crusades in the 12th & 11th centuries respectively. Alberic has lived in the convent in the guise of the hermit of Engaddi. Kenneth comes to him as the messenger of the Council of the Crusading princes. He makes a halt in the cave of the hermit. The sage shows him the chapel. Kenneth is condemned to death by Richard. The hermit prays to the king to excuse him but he pleads in vain. He tries to bring about peaceful settlement between the hostile armies of the crusade and Saladin by marrying Edith to Kenneth. When he knows that Kenneth is the heir—apparent of Scotland and loves Edith he realizes his blunder, asks for pardon from Richard and goes away to his camp. He is one of the most faithful brave servants of his nation.



## A critical appreciation of the novel.

Sir Walter Scott was one of the eminent poets of the nineteenth century, but he was more distinguished as the writer of historical novels. It was so because he had intense love for Scottish history and traditions which have been characteristically depicted in all his works. As a matter of fact, he was the creator of the historical novel.

The *Talisman* narrates the stirring times of the Crusades. It deals with the story of the Third Crusade which was commanded by Richard I of England.

Scott had marvellous Power to vitalize the Past. The *Talisman* presents a stage on which historical personalities of the past seem to move like living men and women. Scott describes the pavilion of the Council in these words. "It was an ample tent; having before it the large banner of the Cross displayed, and another, on which, was portrayed a female kneeling, with dishevelled hair and disordered dress, meant to represent the desolate and distressed Church of Jerusalem ... .." The description is so lively that the picture of the female is presented clearly before the reader's mind. Richards begins his speech thus—"this day is a high festival of the Church..... Noble princes and fathers of this holy expedition, Richard is a soldier—his hand is ever readier than his tongue, and his tongue is but too much used to the rough language of his trade. But do not, for plantagenet's hasty speeches and ill considered actions forsake the noble cause of the redemption of Palastine..... Is Richard in default to you? Richard will make compensation both by word and action....." The style of Sir Walter Scott is so lively that the reader feels as if Richard is making his valiant speech before him. Many such illustrations from the novel can be quoted to show that the author has achieved remarkable success in vitalizing the past.

Scott has aptly presented appropriate setting and atmosphere which have added charm to his descriptions and made the incidents real to the reader. Saladin was invited



to witness the combat at the Diamond of the Desert. Scott describes the scene of the Arab Encampment: "the Diamond of the Desert, so lately a solitary fountain, distinguished only amid the waste by solitary groups of palm trees, was now the centre of an encampment, the embroidered flags and gilded ornaments of which glittered far and wide, and reflected a thousand rich tints against the setting sun. A number of Arabs and Kurds fully corresponding to the extent of the camp, were hastily assembling, each leading his horse in his hand, and their muster was accompanied by an astonishing clamour of these noisy instruments of material music, by which, in all ages, the warfare of the Arabs has been animated ..... The account creates most appropriate oriental atmosphere which makes the scene a reality.

The reader finds in the *Talisman* a contrast between the traditions and civilizations of the East and the West. "..... The meal of the sарcen was abstemious. A handful of dates, and a morsel of coarse barley bread, sufficed to relieve the hunger of the Arab, whose education had habituated him to the fare of the desert: A few draughts from the lovely fountain by which they reposed completed his meal. That of the Christian, though coarse, was more genial. Dried hog's flesh, the abomination of the Moslemah, was the chief part of his repast; and his drink derived from a leathern bottle contained something better than pure element."

In the novel, Scott reveals his thorough knowledge of the manners, customs and characteristics of Moslems. "The Moorish physician is sitting cross-legged. The lower part of his face is covered with a long black beard which descends over his breast. ... ." This special feature has again created for the reader an illusion of reality.

The reader is spell-bound to go through the graphic accounts of the heroic adventures of the character. Sheer-khof and Kenneth use their own lectures in the combat. Saladin and Richard exhibit their own amazing feats of



bravery when they meet for the first time.

The beauty of the plot has again added to the charm of the story which unfolds itself gracefully to the reader. He reads the novel with animated interest and rapt attention. At the close of every chapter he can not suppress his eagerness to discover the secret in the ensuing chapter. He anxiously says to himself 'What next?' The curiosity of the reader is kept alive throughout the story. The mysteries are revealed to him just as landmarks of an unknown way come unexpectedly to the view of a traveller. He is simply amazed when the mystery about the different roles of a character is revealed to him. The secrecy about it is so kept till the opportune time that before it is disclosed, the reader fails to guess or imagine about it. As he spoke Saladin exchanged his turban for a Tartan cap. he had no sooner done so, then Devaux opened at once his extended mouth and his large round eyes, and Richard gazed with scarceless astonishment, while Saladin spoke - The sick man, sayeth the poet, while he is yet infirm, knoweth not his face when he looks upon him, "A miracle! a miracle!!" exclaimed Richard. This is actually the state of the reader when he again discovers that the Nubian slave is Kenneth David Earl of Huntingdon, heir-apparent of the Scottish king William. The reader's interest is awakened at every turn of events.

Sir Walter Scott has mastery over the language. He uses most appropriate words, phrases, maxims to convey the ideas and to create the suitable atmosphere. The book also abounds with graceful interesting natural dialogues. An illustration of it can be found in the conversation between Sir Kenneth and El Hakim. The physician said "May I enter your tent? for the curtain is drawn before the entrance." "The master," replied Sir Kenneth "need demand no permission to enter in tent of the slave." But if I come not as a master" said El Hakim without entering.

"The physician," answered the knight "hath free



access the bedside of his patient " Neither come I now a physician " replied El Hakim " and therefore I still, request permission, ere I come under the covering of thy tent. " 'Who ever comes as a friend, " said Sir Kenneth, " the habitation of the friend is ever open to him " " Yet once again, " says the Eastern sage, after the paraphrastical manner of his country man " supposing that I come not as a friend ? " Came as thou wilt " said the eastern sage " be what thou wilt— thou knowest well it is neither in my power nor my inclination to refuse thee entrance. " " I come then " said El Hakim, " as your ancient foe, but a fair and a generous one. "

The title given to the novel is significant and appropriate.

### Defects of the Novel.

There is no touch of humour in the novel. There is nothing to excite the reader's laughter. The love episode of Edith with Kenneth fails to move any body. The author deals with it in a conventional way. In the course of their love, there are no tense moments of sorrow, Pangs of separation or the bliss of a happy union. In the way one feels that though the episode culminates in the marriage of Edith with Kenneth, there is no development of the course of love.

The story has an abrupt end. On the whole it gives the misleading impression that the civilization and culture of Saladin were far superior to those of Richard; it is because Scott has been lavish in his praise of the Sultan.

The author has failed to develop the characters of the personalities of the novel along with the development of the plot of the story though they are manly and inspiring.

Scott has not been able to give a moralizing touch to the story. As it is a historical novel, one cannot expect a tone of idealism in the novel.



## Important general questions and their answers

**Q. 1 Explain the title of the novel, the Talisman. Is the title of the novel appropriate?**

**Ans:—**Talisman is a wonderful medicines. It can be prepared only under certain aspects of the heavens, when the Divine Intelligences are very kind. The physician who uses the drug has to undergo penances and observe fasts. He has to maintain the purity of life and conduct. Besides this, he has to take an oath that he will cure at least twelve patients within a fortnight. But if, on account of the love of ease on the part of the physician, he fails to cure the required number of persons, the medicine ceases to make its effects. In addition to that, both the physician and the last patient are not only beset with worst misfortunes but they cannot also survive the year.

Scott has preferred the title because Talisman plays a significant part in the novel. Saladin uses the mysterious medicine in the guise of L. Hakim Talisman saves the life of king Richard. He is enabled by it to lead the Crusade and achieve unity among the princes. Talisman again heals the grievous wounds of Rosewel, the hound of Sir Kenneth. Without the help of the faithful dog, it would have been impossible to detect Conrade who had stolen the flag of England. Again El-Hakim obtains pardon for Kenneth's life because, by the use of Talisman, he had saved Richard's life. Talisman thus saves the life of Kenneth, the hero of the novel. Conrade is fatally wounded in the combat. The precious drug comes to his rescue and preserves his life. He is enabled to make confession of his crimes.

Talisman is not only a remedy for all diseases but it also maintains the continuity of the story of the novel. Without Talisman, it would have come to an abrupt end. If Richard had succumbed to the disease; the plot of the novel could not have been detached if Rosewel had breathed his last owing to his wounds, if Conrade had died on the



battle field, without the use of Talisman, the Crimes of the Grand Master of the Templars could not have been brought to the light.

Talisman ennobles Richard's character and persona ity. He sends the celebrated Talisman as his present on the occasion of Kenneth's marriage with Edith. Talisman spreads Richard's fame far and wide in Europe where many cures are wrought by means of it.

Scott has aptly given the title, 'The Talisman' to his novel.

**Q 2**—Briefly describe the part played by the different characters of the novel in their various disguises. How far have they succeeded in arousing the curiosity of the reader?

**Ans**—Sheerkhof the sarracen Emir, met Sir Kenneths the scottish knight at the fountain called the Diamond of the Desert. After a deadly contest they became friendly and made a brief halt in the desert. During the course of their conversations Sheerkhof listened to the praise of the beauty of the royal women of Richard's camp. He made a firm determination within himself to see them with his own eyes.

Richard fell seriously ill. Saladin sent his own physician, Adonbec, to cure Richard of his fatal disease. by means of the wonderful drug Talisman. Adonbec, the hakim, was admired for his services. Kenneth was condemned to death by Richard. El Hakim saved his life. Richard could not refuse the request of El Hakim as he had saved his life. El Hakim healed the wounds of Roswel, the faithful dog of Kenneth. Kenneth went with the Hakim, as his slave Adonbec returned to his native land. They made a brief halt in the way. Kenneth was tired and fell asleep. On making up, he discovered, to his great amazement, that the Hakim was, as a matter of fact Sheerkhof, the Sarracen Knight whom he had fact, first met in the desert. Sheerkhof commanded Kenneth to carry Saladin's love letter to Edith. He is disguised as a



Nabiun slave and goes with the mission entrusted to him by his master, the Hakim.

Richard failed to recognise Kenneth in the disguise of a Nubian. The Nubian saved the king's life when the marabout made a fatal attack on him. He detected Conrade who had stolen the flag of England. The Nubian won the duel in the combat with Conrade. He delivered Saladin's letter to Edith who at the first sight discovered that the Nubian was none else than Kenneth. He was admired by Richard for his victory in the Combat Queen Berengaria and other ladies were astonished to know that the Nubian was Kenneth. Their joy knew no bounds when again it was revealed to them that Kenneth was David, Earl of Huntingdon, Prince Royal of Scotland. In this way terminated the various disguises of Kenneth.

Richard met the Saladin for the first time when the latter came to witness the combat. Then enjoyed a brief happy conversation. Each one of them gave a display of his feat of bravery. Saladin then exchanged his turban for a Tortar cap. Richard and Sir Thomas Devaux were amazed to find by the change that Saladin himself was the Hakim. They exclaimed "A miracle ! a miracle !!". In this way ended the various disguises of Saladin. He was the Sheerkhof the Saracen Knight and he was also disguised as Adonbec, the El Hakim.

The Hermit Of Engaddi was really the descendent of Royal Lusignan and Gofrey who were the heroes of the Crusades of 11th century. The hermit had himself participated in the Crusades. He lived in the convent of Engaddi for over twenty years. His identity could not be discovered by the Sarcens. Service of his faith was the mission of his life. When it was made known to Richard that the hermit of Engaddi was the brave descendant of Royal Lusignan he recalled his bravery and sacrifices in the former crusades and was filled with reverence for the sage.



The reader is spell-bound when the mystery about the various disguises of the character of the novel is made open to him. The interest of the reader is maintained throughout the novel by this singular device of the author.

**Q. 3** What are the main points of congruency between the characters of Richard and Saladin?

Both Richard and Saladin are the defenders of their faith. The allies of the Crusading army propose to end the war by marrying Edith to Saladin and detaining all privileges for Christian pilgrims going to Jerusalem. The idea never appeal to Richard. He can never accept degrading terms of peace. He can never be satisfied unless he conquers Jerusalem which is the object of the Third Crusade. The dissensions of the princes are the stumbling blocks in his way. The treachery on the part of Conrad and the Grand master still make the situation worse. It has almost broken the solidarity of the army. Richard receives distributing news from England about the factions of the chieftains. His presence is unavoidably and urgently required at home. But Saladin is the last man to be deterred by such trial and tribulations. He does not give up courage till last. He is the defender of his faith. In order to achieve the holy mission he is willing to make supreme sacrifice. In the meeting of the Council he declares that he is prepared to follow the leadership of a new selected commander of the Crusade. He takes the initiative to sink his differences with Philip of France and Leopold of Austria to keep the princes united for the holy cause. He succeeds in establishing unity among the princes. His heroism and devotion to his faith, inspire his followers. They breathe new spirit of bravery and sacrifice among the soldiers and they begin preparations in right earnest for the holy war.

Saladin, like Richard, is not prepared to make any compromise with Richard on the issue of handing over Jerusalem to Richard. He is ready to grant all concessions to the Christians but the holy city is to be ruled by the follow-



ers of the Prophet. Saladin is determined to fight to the last to defend his faith.

Both Richard and Saladin are brave kings. Saladin showed his first feat of bravery when he fights a deadly contest with Kenneth in the guise of Sheerkohf. In the guise of El Hakim, he again proves himself capable general and an efficient rider when during his return march, he and his retinue are persued by unknown bands of warriors.

During his period of convalescence, Richard rushes on the spot, where the flag of England is insulted. With his mighty force he hurled the Austrian knight down on the other side of the hill by which he was mortally wounded.

When Richard and Saladin meet for the first time as brother kings each one of them shows his feat of bravery. He cuts with one stroke of his sword the iron handle of a steel mace which is an inch and a half in diameter. Saladin is no less a brave warrior than Richard. He cut a cushion of silk with dexterity and skill that it seemed rather to fill asunder than to be devided by violence.

Saladin is noble and magnanimous. He honours Richard for his bravery and courage. Saladin likewise is held in high esteem by Richard. He is grateful to the Sarcen monarch for all his kind acts.

Both the monarchs vie with each other in courage, patriotism, bravery mutual respect, magnanimity and in their supreme devotion to their faith.

**Q. 4** *Describe the love episode of the novel which culminated in the marriage of Edith with Kenneth.*

**Ans:—**Kenneth was a brave warrior but he was a timid lover. He was reserved and bashful in his love for Edith. It was pleasant surprise for the Scottish knight to recognise his lady love among the processionists at the chapel of Engaddi. Edith ventured to drop rose buds on the foot of Kenneth in token of her love. He expressed his gratitude only by his mute guestures.



Queen Berengaria was made aware of Edith's love for Kenneth. She sent the frightful dwarf Nectabanus to embarrass. He was more disgusted of the ugly figure than he was frightened. He commanded the dwarf to return at once. In this way the queen enjoyed this simple joke with Edith's lover. In order to test Kenneth's love and make fun of him she thought of another ideal frolic. She tortured Nectabanus to go to Kenneth and communicate to him a false message in the name of Edith. Nectabanus put Edith's ruby ring on Kenneth's palm and told him that his presence was instantly required by Edith. He also asked him to listen to her words—"Tell him that the hand which dropped roses can bestow lures." Kenneth's love for Edith was unfathomable. He was tempted to give up his duty of guarding the flag of England. He followed Nectabanus in obedience to the commands of his lady-love. Edith was an intelligent farsighted lady. She could imagine consequences of the risky joke which the queen enjoyed at the cost of her lover's life. She could not, therefore, be a party to the frolic. In the presence of the queen, she scolded the maid servant when they tried to make their love an object of fun and merriment. When she met Kenneth she said "I have been the means of injuring you. But O, begone! She declined to receive her ring and said "Keep it as a mark of my regard. I would say, O, begone, if not for your sake, for mine I" Kenneth was sentenced to death for bringing dishonour to England. Edith persuaded the queen to obtain from Richard pardon for Kenneth's life. She was aggrieved to learn that Kenneth was suffering for her sake. She did her best to save her lover's life.

Kenneth was shocked to learn that Saladin himself loved Edith but he had to obey the command of his master to deliver his love letter to Edith. Kenneth gave it in the disguise of a dumb slave. He pretended to be deprived of speech lest he might be discovered by his voice. Edith recognized him at the first sight. She repeatedly made anxious enquiries about Kenneth's plight. She expressed her sorrow and sympathy for her lover but Kenneth did not utter a word.



She covered her eyes with her hand and was deeply agitated at her lover's continued silence. She threw Saladin's letter on the ground and placed her foot upon it. Richard requested Edith to consider the proposal of her marriage with Saladin to put an end to the war. She said "The poorest of the Plantagenets will rather wed with misery than with misbelief. 's' Kenneth won the combat against Conrade. He was welcomed by the ladies as the victor. She was unlacing the knight's helmet. It was announced that Kenneth was David, Earl of Huntingdon, Prince Royal of Scotland. She was so much surprised that he dropped from her hand the helmet which she had just before received. She was married with Kenneth. In this way materialized the love episode.

**Q. 5** *What light does "Talisman" throw on Islamic traditions, culture and manners?*

**Ans:**—Scott in his historical novel "Talisman" presents a new picture of Islamic traditions and culture. He makes the Muslim characters use most appropriate oriental proverbs and epithets. Sheerkohf says—"By Mohammed prophet of God, and by Allah, God of the Prophet, there is not treachery in my heart towards thee." Sheerkohf takes an oath saying "Now, by the Corner-stone of the Caaba! I will accept thy invitation....."

Scott gives an idea of the kind of food which is taken by an Arab. The meal of the Sarcen consists of a handful of dates and a morsal of coarse barley-bread. Scott makes it clear in his novel that hog's flesh is hated by the followers of the prophet. By the conversation between the Sarcen Emir and the Scottish Knight, it is also made known to the reader that, according to the canons of Islamic law, the Mohammedan is allowed to marry more than one wife. Kenneth shows to Sheerkohf a pass signed by Saladin. The Sarcen bends his head to the dust as he recognizes the seal and handwriting of the renowned Saladin of Egypt and Syria. He kisses the paper with profound respect and presses it to his forehead. It is



Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri  
 an appropriate description of the way in which a moslem pays his homage to his object of adoration.

The morish physician is sitting cross-legged. The lower part of his face is covered with a long black beard which descends over his breast. He promises that the patient would awaken hale and hearty at the hour when the Muezzin calls from the minaret to evening prayer in the mosque. The Archbishop of Tyre salutes the Hakim. He only replies by the ordinary oriental greeting "Salamalekam—peace be with you. The physician sits and salutes in an Eastern fashion. He keeps a beard according to the tenets of Islam. He asks the man to awaken the patient when the Muezzin calls from the minaret. This also makes the reader aware of the tradition that a priest has to give a call for prayer from the minaret of the mosque.

Sir Walter Scott describes Saladin's encampment at the fountain called the Diamond of Desert. There are solitary groups of palm-trees. The place has become the centre of an encampment. Embroidered flags and gilded ornaments glittered far and wide and reflected a thousand rich tints against the setting sun. The description gives an idea of the pomp and grandeur of an Oriental Monarch.

The author has frequently made use of eastern proverbs. The Sarcen quotes one of the mabims. He says "In the desert no man meets a friend." The Sultan of Egypt greets Richard saying. "The Melect Ric is welcome to Saladin as water to this desert. Richard kills the Grand Master before his lips touch the cups of iced sherbet. If he had permitted him to taste the cup, he could not have done him to death. An example of the noble idea of eastern hospitality is presented to the reader by the author.

In this way the reader enjoys in this novel the glimpses of Islamic traditions, culture and manners.

*Q. 6 Trace the course of events which led to the ultimate dissolution of the Third Crusade.*

*Ans:—*The Third Crusade was organised by the Christian Prince of Europe. Richard I, of the England was elected the chief commander. Its aim was the conquest of Jerusalem. It



could not be fulfilled owing to several reasons.

The unwholesome climate of the land made an adverse effect upon the iron frame of Richard. He became afflicted with one of those slow and wasting fevers peculiar to Asia. He was rendered unfit to mount on the horse back. He could not even attend the councils of war. The prolonged sickness of Richard was an obstacle which impeded every active measure against Saladin. The council resolved to engage in a truce of thirty days with the Sultan. During the illness of Richard the disunion between the various bands, united in the Crusade, began to display itself. Sir Thomas De Vaux was an English noble, a distinguished general. He was most prejudiced against the Scottish warriors who had joined the Crusaders and placed themselves under the command of the English monarch. He was hated by the Scottish barons and knights.

The jealousies of the Christian princes still more weakened the army. Philip of France was enigmical to Richard owing to his serious difference with Richard in European politics. Leopold Duke of Austria was also hostile to Richard. He planted his banner beside that of England on Saint George's Mount. Richard could not tolerate dishonour done to England. He pulled the Austrian flag and trampled it under his foot. The discord between the two monarchs again weakened the holy mission of the Crusade. Other princes were also offended at the rash, haughty uncurbed temperament of Richard.

Conrade of Montserrat and the Grand Master of Templars played their treacherous part in breaking the solidarity of the Crusading army. They did so to meet their own selfish ends. They succeeded in breaking peace between Austria and England.

The Council proposed to terminate the war by making honourable peace with Saladin. They thought of cementing alliance by marrying Edith, the royal kinswoman of Richard to Saladin. The Archbishop of Tyre, Conrade of Montserrat, the hermit of Engaddi and other princes agreed to the proposal. A message was sent to Saladin to sound his view on the terms of permanent peaceful settlement. Richard was unaware of the



Council's negotiations of peace. Archbishop of Tyre was deputed by the Council to persuade Richard to agree to the terms of peace. He was the last man to accept such degrading course. He attended the assembly meeting; he achieved union among the princes, inspired them to prepare triumphal march to Jerusalem and give up once for all the idea of peace. When Conrade found that his plans to create discord among the princes were thwarted by Richard, he secretly removed the flag of England from Saint George's Mount. He was detected by Kenneth's faithful hound. This led to an open rupture among the princes once again. The dissatisfied monarchs supported Conrade. Richard could not excuse the traitor. Conrade was defeated and mortally wounded in the combat. Fear of being discovered, the Grand Master, murdered his wounded companion Conrade. Ranks of Crusaders were daily thinned by desertion of individuals and of entire bands headed by feudal lords. As the Crusading army decreased, the enterprise of the Sultan became more frequent and more bold. The camp of the Crusaders was subjected to harm and mischief. Philip of France and Leopold of Austria returned to Europe, leaving the task unfulfilled.

Richard received perturbing news from England about the party factions among the chiefs of England. There were no prospects of success in the war. For the reasons mentioned about the Third Crusade could not conquer Jerusalem.

*Q. 7. Considering yourself as Kenneth, give a brief account of the combats in which you participated.*

*Ans:—*On my way to the Convent of Engaddi. I was passing through the desert of Syria at about noon. It was unbearably hot. I was feeling tired of my irksome journey, I was armed from head to foot. My horse was also equipped with all means of protection. I was looking forward to the place where I could make a brief halt. At some distance, I noticed an object moving among the palm trees. When he approached nearer, I discerned that he was a mounted Saracen horseman. I thought it was better for me to prepare myself for all emergencies. I



pulled my lance from the saddle of my horse, held it in my right hand, caught the reins of my horse in the left and spurred to make it active and alert. I was ready to meet the stranger I thought that I should not exhaust my horse by any unnecessary exertion. The Saracen knight seemed to be anxious for an encounter with me. When he approached towards me within twice the length of his lance, he turned his horse to the left with skill and rode twice round me. I guessed that he wanted to attack me on an unguarded point so I presented my front to my enemy every time. He retreated a distance of hundred yards to show that he was returning. I kept myself on my guard. He made the show of attacking me but again retreated without having an encounter with me. I wanted to put his trickery to an end so for the third time, when he approached in the same manner, I suddenly seized his mace and hurled it against him with full force. He protected himself by his buckler but he was beaten from his horse. Before I could avail myself of this mishap, my antagonist called his horse near and leaped at once into his seat, without touching his stirrup. In this way he recovered his lost position. He put his horse to the gallop and discharged six arrows at me. Had I not been protected with a coat of linked mail, with long sleeves and a steel breast plate, I would have been fatally wounded. I could not however escape from the last arrow. I dropped heavily from my horse but I pretended to be unconscious. I lay motionless. The heathen came near me to examine my body. To his surprise I suddenly caught him in my grips but he gathered up his courage. He deluded my grasp by unloosening the sword belt which I had held in my hand. He retreated and again mounted on his horse to renew his attack. But this time he was deprived of his sword and arrows because they were attached to the girdle which was left with me. He had also lost his turban in the struggle. He thought it was risky to continue the encounter without arms. He approached me in a friendly way and said. "There is truce between our nation. Why should there be war between you and me. Let there be peace between us." In this way ended my first encounter with



he Sarcen Emir who told me that he was Sheerkohf.

I' as the representative of Richard I, I was again chosen to fight a dual with a Conrade of Montserrat who was charged with treason against England. The herald at-arms annouced my name as the king's champion. Conraee was no match for me. There was no doubt about my victory. Conrade made a show that he was a skilful warrior. He made the first attack which I intercepted on my shield. His lance was broken. This time I aimed a blow at my enemy with such strength that my lance pierced through his shield into his bosom. He fell down from his horse as he was mortally wounded and was rendered totally unfit to continue the fight. He said " I am guilty, God had justly decided the issue. "

*Q. 8 Explain, by giving references from the novel that Sir Thomas De Vaux is one of the most important characters of the novel.*

*Ans:—*Sir Thomas De vaux, Lord of Gilsland, was an eminent English noble who had followed King Richard to Palestine. He was a faithful baron most devoutly attached to the king's person. All other attendants were afraid the king owing to his rash and haughty temperament but Sir Thomas De vaux alone maintained control over him. He valued Richard's life more than any one else. He could persuade Richard to take the medicine and refreshment which were recommended by his physician. He took upon himself the duty of attending to the king in his sickness. Richard was scolding himself for his inactivity which was merely due to his sickness. In his excitement, while he was on sick bed, Richard raised himself in his couch and shook his cleaned hands. It was with a little degree of force. that De Vaux could compel his royal master to take rest. The knight would not allow any one of tamper with king's health. He was fully satisfied with the capacity and motives of Saladin's physician before he allowed him to treat Richard.

He was frequently engaged in war-fare with Scottish barons. He was prejudiced against them. He was, therefore,



not favourably inclined to Kenneth the Scottish knight. With gloom painted on his face, Kenneth came to give an account of the flag incident. Sir Thomas, who was sitting besides his master's bed, reminded Richard of the warning that he had given to the king before the duty of defending the flag was entrusted to Sir Kenneth. Richard said, "Thou didst, De Vaux; thou was right and I confess it. I should have known him better." Sir De Vaux was glad when Richard ordered him to lock up Kenneth in safe custody.

Richard and Saladin met for the first time. De Vaux was in attendance of Richard. Saladin saw Richard's two handle swords and requested him to strike one blow with it. De Vaux requested his master to desist from making such an attempt as he had not still then recovered his normal health and strength. But the king did not pay any attention to his suggestion. De Vaux again expressed his anxiety but he was again silenced by Richard.

Thus we notice that De Vaux rendered most valuable services to Richard in the third Crusade. The safety of Richard's life was his first and foremost duty which he discharged most faithfully. He gave sincere and wise counsels to his master from time to time and they were readily accepted by Richard. Sir Thomas is thus an important character of the novel.

**Q. 9 Give a critical appreciation of the novel.**

**Ans:—**For answer please read elsewhere the chapter entitled "A critical appreciation of the novel."

**Q. 10 Write a short note on the early life and career of Sir Walter Scott as a writer.**

Sir Walter Scott was born in Edinburgh, on August 15, 1771. Owing to his delicate health, he was sent to live with his grand mother, so that the country air might suit his health. He was sent to the school when he was eight years old. He was more interested in reading books of adventures than in going through his text-books. Having finished the school studies, he joined the Bar in 1792, but he did not find pleasure and interest



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 in his new profession.

In his childhood his grand mother told him interesting stories, legends and tales of adventure. This created in him interest and love for stories of war adventures. His ancestor had participated in the ancient brother feuds. He was, therefore, naturally interested in Scottish History and his love for it is evinced in all his work.

In 1802-1803, he published three volume of his Minstresly of the Scottish Border; in 1805 he published the "The Lay of the last Minstrel. He was also the author of Marion and the Lady of the Lake. Byron was his contemporary writer. He became famous as a poet. He gave up poetry and commenced writing historical novels. His first novel was Waverly. This was followed by the Antiquary, Black Dwarf, Old Mortality, Rob Roy and the Heart of Midlothian. The theme of his Novels at first was Scottish history but later he took to English chronicles. Ivanhoe, Kenilworth, Quentin-Darward and other novels, bear the background of English History. The Talisman represents tale of the times of the Crusades.

He was the creator of the historical novel. All subsequent writers draw their inspiration from him and acknowledged him as their master.

*Q. 11 Write brief notes on the characters of Kenneth, Richard I Saladin, Edith Plantagenet and Conrade of Montserrat.*

### KENNETH

He is the hero of novel. He is brave and courageous. He is imbued with the spirit of adventure. He is engaged in a deadly combat with Sheerkohf and proves himself more than a match for him. As Richard's champion, he wins the battle against Conrade. He is prepared to make supreme sacrifice for the defence of his nation and his faith. He is true to his conscience and his mission. Sir Thomas De Vaux persuades him to disclose the object of his visit to the convent of Engaddi.

Richard also induces him to disclose to him the secret, but he is bold and straight forward. He maintains his self



respect and refuses to tell them his purpose. He loves Edith but he is shy. He can not dare to take the initiative in expressing his ardent love for her. Richard sentenced him to death for dishonour done to England by the removal of the flag. He is banished as the Hakim's slave but he never utters a word against queen Berengaria. Like Nala the famous Indian tale, he performs the painful duty of delivering Saladin's bellet doux to Edith Plantagenet. He is true to his master. his faith, his country and his lady-love. He is manly and inspiring.

### RICHARD

He is the chief Commandar of the third Crusade. He is devoted to his country to his faith. Owing to his sickness preparations of the war have been inevitably suspended. He is tossing in his bed because his heart pinches him for his disability and inactivity. He is a true patriot and is anxious to achieve his aim. The princes are offended with him owing to his rash and haughty temperament. They are supporting to the holy cause only half heartedly. There are dissensions among the princes. They propose to make peace with Saladin by marrying Edith with him. Richard rejects the disgraceful proposal. He is willing to relinquish his leadership for the defence of his faith. He forgets his enmity with the king of Austria, extends to him his hand of friendship. He sinks his differences with Philip. He encourages the princes to do and die. He succeeds in uniting and inspiring them. They are determined to win the war.

Personal relations or considerations can not deviate him an inch from path of patriotism. Berengaria and, the hermit of Engaddi can not obtain from him pardon for Kenneth's life but he has to acced to the Hakim's request as he can not be ungrateful.

He cannot tolerate insult done to his country. He can forgive Conrade for his treachery. He hurled the Austrian soldier down the hill side with his mighty strength and give challenge to the Austrians to fight. He gives a display of his superior strength by cutting with his sword an inch and a half thick steel handle.



He shows this fact of bravery, He has not fully recovered from his sickness. He is brave and adventurous. He is the last man to give up hope of victory. He has won the esteem of his antagonist Saladin for his bravery and sacrifice.

### SALADIN

Saladin is brave, noble and generous. In his role of Sheer-kohf, the Sarcen Emir, he gives a display of his tactics as a warrior when he fights with Kenneth. He is generous towards his enemies. He leads Kenneth to the cave of the hermit of Engaddi. In the guise of Adonbec, the Hakim, he cures Richard of his fatal disease. It is a noble rare example of magnanimity and courage. He is perfect in the art of physician. He is truly devoted to his religion. He is ready to grant all concessions to Richard but he cannot make to any compromise on the issue of handing over Jerusalem to the heathens, Oriental culture and civilisations are best illustrated in his ideal character. He kills the Grandmaster before his lips touch the cup full of iced sherbet because he does not wish to be called inhospitable, When he realizes that Kenneth deserves Edith's love, he withdraws himself in favour of the Knight. He respects Richard and is held in high esteem by him in return. Saladin's character is brighter than Richard as depicted in the novel.

### Edith Plantagent

She is royal kinswoman of Richard. A remarkable degree of self respect is conspicuous in her character. She does not wish that her lover Kenneth's life should be put to risk for her sake. She is annoyed with Queen Berengaria when she takes pleasure in a joke with Kenneth. An attendant of the queen makes some disagreeable remarks in the presence of the queen regarding her love. She gets angry and the queen is compelled to scold her servant. For her frankness and noble learning she is respected by Richard more than the queen. She is proud of the Royal House of Plantagents and she reminds Richard I to uphold its prestige. Richard sounds his intentions regarding the idea of her proposed.



marriage with Saladin. She says "... ..The poorest of the Plantagenets will rather wed with misery than misbelieve ? She feels pity for the sufferings of innocent Kenneth. She is very happy to learn that Kenneth is the heir apparent of Scottish King William. She is married with him

### Conrade of Montserrat

He comes to make pretended anxious enquiries about the health of Richard I of England. As the representative of the Council he advises the king that he should not allow the Hakim to temper with his health. But he is determined to create obstacles in Richard's way by all possible means and to frustrate his mission. He ultimately achieves his evil purpose, though in his attempt he loses his own life. He is faithless and treacherous. He professes to be loyal to Christendom, but takes the lead in undermining the solidarity of the Crusading army. He is hypocrite. He makes Leopold hostile to Richard. He not only favours but also strongly supports the Council's proposal of Edith's marriage with Saladin. He steals the flag of England in the night and thereby again sows the seeds of dissension among the princes. He is defeated in the combat and confesses his crimes. He is murdered by his own companion the Grand master of Templars and thus meets the deserved fate. But wide gulf of disharmony among the princes could not be bridged and Richard had to return leaving his task unfinished.

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